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'Far-reaching' economic impact



King-Hinds



Cavanagh



Tenorio

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

With no typhoon to blame—when the CNMI gets federal assistance—the economic impact to the Commonwealth of the cancellation of flights due to the coronavirus outbreak will be significant and far-reaching, according to Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds yesterday.

The dollar impact of such flight cancellations and suspensions on CNMI hotels will be huge, said Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands president Gloria Cavanagh.

This comes soon after President Donald J. Trump issued a proclamation that suspends or limits the entry to the United States of persons who pose a risk of transmitting the 2019 novel coronavirus, which

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Impact for hotels is huge; some already reducing work hours
» **CPA's Tenorio**
explains how Trump proclamation affects travelers to CNMI

A DIFFERENT KIND OF WHITTLING

Grand master navigator Antonio "Tony" Urmeyang Pailug smooths out the edges to carve out a latte stone on the keel of a traditional canoe that is being built at the canoe house in Susupe.

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Jennifer Lopez and Shakira infuse the Super Bowl halftime show with exuberance and joy.

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Local

‘Canoe more than just for show at FestPac 2020’

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The traditional canoe that is being built at the canoe house in

Susupe is not just intended for show at the Festival of Pacific Arts in Hawaii in June 2020, but is actually to educate people about traditional seafaring.

According to John Castro, who is project coordinator of the seafaring tradition program of the Department of Community and Cultural Af-

fairs, he wants to emphasize that the building of the traditional canoe is meant to teach the CNMI community about, one, the importance of the tra-



Grand master navigator Antonio “Tony” Urmeyang Pailug hacks away at the *dokduk*—breadfruit tree—in order to create a smooth keel and to also carve out a latte stone on the keel for the traditional canoe that is being built at the canoe house in Susupe.

JUSTINE NAUTA

Dems, supporters hold ‘roadside wave for change’

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Members and supporters of the CNMI Democratic Party led by chair Nola K. Hix held a two-hour “roadside wave for change” at the Garapan Fishing Base across Kristo Rai Church last Thursday afternoon.

The group started converging at 4pm in two tents by the shoulder of Beach Road. Most of the participants wore white T-shirts with a message “Vote for change in 2020.” They were also holding up placards that read “For Our Precious Environment,” “For Equal Employment Opportunities,” “For a Better CNMI,” and “For the Lands That Belong To Us.”

Among the participants were lawyers Stephen Woodruff and Joe Hill, former Labor chief Edith Deleon Guerrero, and Peter Muña, who is planning to run as a Democrat for a House of Representatives seat in Precinct 5.

Hix said they want to do the roadside waving not just on that day, but for every month until this November’s midterm elections.



CNMI Democratic Party chair Nola K. Hix, second from left, leads members and supporters during a “roadside wave for change” at the Garapan Fishing Base across Kristo Rai church in Garapan Thursday afternoon. At extreme left is Peter Muna and behind Hix is former Labor secretary Edith Deleon Guerrero.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

“We want the community to stand in solidarity for a better CNMI,” Hix said.

When asked why they did the roadside waving that Thursday, Hix said it was prompted by rumors of some grand jury proceedings at the federal court happening on that day.

“And you know, we just

want to send a reminder that hope is here to stay. The only thing stronger than fear is your vote,” she said.

It was previously reported that, at the request of the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the U.S. District Court for the NMI has subpoenaed the records custodian of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to ap-

pear last Thursday, Jan. 30, to testify before a grand jury.

The subpoena—issued last Nov. 6—commanded the unnamed records custodian of IPI to provide any communications between any owners, executives, or employees of IPI and Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres discussing, directing, or summarizing cash transactions and/or donations to the Friends of Ralph organization or to any other political campaigns on or after Sept. 1, 2013.

Hix said they want to remind the people of the CNMI not to forget to vote for change in 2020.

“Let’s look forward to a positive outlook for the elections and for the people of the CNMI, on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota,” she said.

Asked if she has information about a grand jury that day, Thursday, Hix said she has not confirmed it but that was what they have heard.

“We will be hosting a Roadside Wave for Change every month, and it just so happened that the party wanted to host our wave today. We will be hosting one next month, all the way until the midterm elections,” she said.

ditional canoe; two, to show the world how traditional navigators learned how to navigate using just stars; and three, to teach the youth about traditional seafaring which is the practice of travelling by sea.

Two more individuals have recently volunteered to help Castro and grand master navigator Antonio “Tony” Urmeyang Pailug in building the traditional canoe in Susupe.

Castro stated that he’s grateful for the help of the two volunteers and he hopes to be able to attract more skilled traditional canoe builders to help with the canoe making.

Two weeks ago, the canoe

only had the base. *Saipan Tribune* recently learned that the construction of the canoe’s outrigger, which is meant to balance the canoe, is now getting built. When finished, the canoe would be approximately 34 feet long.

The canoe is being made out of *dokduk*—breadfruit tree—that was harvested from Rota and the sail will be made out of a nylon canvas fabric.

The canoe has been in the works since 2017 and should have been almost finished but, due to multiple storms, parts that were needed weren’t available after Super Typhoon Yutu hit in October 2018.

Free Guam workshops on contracting with federal govt

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free workshops to the public this month on contracting with the federal government. Workshops run from 9am to 10am at the University of Guam in the Jesus and Eugenia Leon Guerrero Business and Public Admin Building, Margarita Perez & Jaime Tuquero IT&E Lecture Hall, Room 131(unless otherwise specified):

■ Feb. 6: Applying for a DUNS number and registering in SAM – To sell your product or service to the federal government, you need to get a DUNS number and register in SAM. These registrations pose unique challenges to Guam/CNMI based businesses. Tips and solutions for these challenges will be discussed.

■ Feb. 13: Updating your SBA profile and navigating the Dynamic Small Business Search (DSBS) – Your SBA profile is a great marketing tool. The Guam PTAC will show you how to setup and update your profile. The DSBS is SBA’s database of small businesses. We will show you how

to use it to help your company succeed in government contracting.

■ Feb. 20: Federal Contract Opportunities – FedBizOpps and NECO are gone. Beta.sam.gov is the new portal for federal contract opportunities. The Guam PTAC will show you how to set up an account and how to use the search filters to ensure you do not miss any opportunities.

■ Feb. 27: Developing a Capabilities Statement – A Capabilities Statement is an essential marketing tool for government contracting. The Guam PTAC will explain how to create a CS and what information should be included to improve your chances of winning a government contract.

For project management professionals, Guam PTAC workshops may count toward your annual Professional Development Unit goals!

Register at <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>, or call/email Therese at 735-2552 /admin@guamptac.com.

Walk-ins are welcome. (PTAC)



PARENT PLEDGE

Parent leaders raise their right hand to recite the Parent Pledge at the Parent Leadership Month proclamation signing at the Kagman Community Center last Jan. 31. Lizette Pascua, a parent leader of Green Meadow Middle School, led the recitation of the pledge.

JUSTINE NAUTA

Story on
Page 8

Pladevega is still PSS' Counselor of the Year

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Hopwood Middle School counselor Jillian Alice C. Pladevega has been named the Public School System's Counselor of the Year for the second consecutive year.

Pladevega was named the 2019-2020 Counselor of the Year during the counselor's month proclamation signing yesterday at the Koblerville Elementary School. She was recognized for her outstanding performance as a middle school counselor.

Pladevega said she was

astounded but honored to receive the award for the second year in a row and she feels every school counselor should be recognized for their outstanding work at their respective schools.

"I am so shocked but I am so blessed. I am so humbled that they would consider my application. I think every year everyone should turn in an application but there is so little of us, everyone should be recognized. It doesn't matter the title; just knowing you're being appreciated is a lot," she said.

Pladevega credits her getting the recognition to the

recommendation letters she had from teachers, parents, and her students.

"I guess when it came down to it, [my application] went through because of the recommendation letters from parents, teachers, students, and admin. It's a lot of work so I'm just as surprised but very honored," she said.

Pladevega has been a counselor for HMS since 2013. Before taking up her counseling position, Pladevega was working as a Head Start teacher.

Pladevega has been a school counselor for seven years now and aims to put in more work as a middle school counselor because it's inspiring to work with students.

"I don't have kids of my own but it's really nice to have a taste of how it would be like to have my own kids. ...They say we mold them but they also mold me and who I am," she said.



Jillian Pladevega, third from the right, is awarded her second consecutive Counselor of the Year award yesterday at the Koblerville Elementary School.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Lions Club spruces up old road signs

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
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REPORTER

The Saipan Fil-American Lions Club recently spruced up the club's many road signs that say, "Keep Saipan Beautiful. Do Not Litter." The signs are along the road and placed in different villages.

According to the Region 2 chairperson and past president Annamae Adaza, this was an overdue project. Before, most of the signs had only the post and had either been erased already or the writings were not legible anymore.

The new signs are posted

on Quartermaster Road near the tank, San Jose area near the traffic light in front of Marianas High School, and in front of the KFC store in Chalan Kanoa, with more to follow.

The road signs were started in the early '90s, with nearly 50 posted around the island, with the help of the Lions members from Japan.

Mario Mayuga, one of the charter members of the club, hopes that the Lions Club will continue to spruce up even half of those signs, once they have enough funding and can still find those poles.

HMS has four counselors, one designated for each grade level and its alternative program called LMA. Pladevega

counsels over 20 students under the LMA program.

"I'd like to thank everyone that was involved, [especially]

all the students. If the students weren't here, I wouldn't have a job and I wouldn't be who I am," she said.

Korean students take part in SIS sports day

Over 100 visiting students from South Korea participated in the Saipan International School's annual sports day last Wednesday.

According to SIS headmaster Ron Snyder, SIS hosted over 100 exchange students this month, ending with SIS'

annual sports day at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Snyder said most of the visiting students are on school holidays in Korea and, together with the SIS students, had a rigorous sports day that was full of challenging outdoor physical education. Events

included a hula-hoop challenge, softball roll; 400-meter, 200-meter, and 100-meter races; long jump, and jump rope, among other activities.

SIS' first through fifth grade participated in the activities, which were organized by fourth grade teacher David Steinberg.

The event ended with an award ceremony, with ribbons presented to all first and second place finishers for each class in each event.

Snyder thanked Northern Marianas Athletics and the staff at Ada Gym for volunteering their time to help make the event happen. *(Kimberly Bautista)*



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Compact impact report needed in prep for renegotiations

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

The Compact Impact fund of about \$2 million that the CNMI gets every year to help defray some costs associated with migrants from the Freely Associated States of Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia would be reduced by \$727,210 in fiscal year 2021-23.

This is a result of the U.S. Census Bureau's recent discovery that they have been significantly undercounting the number of FAS residents in Hawaii since 2013.

As if the decrease is not impactful enough, the funding would also run out when the Compacts expire in 2023 and 2024, prompting Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) to seek a continuation and an increase

in the impact funds at that time.

In a letter to CNMI Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Sablan asked for the administration to begin collecting data on the fiscal impact of the FAS migrants on the resources of the Commonwealth, as he prepares to make the case for compensating the Marianas.

"In preparation of the renegotiation of these compacts, it would benefit the Northern Marianas and

provide justification for increased federal funding if we had an up-to-date, accurate understanding of the costs associated with the hosting of [Compact of Free Association] migrants," Sablan stated.

The Commonwealth has yet to submit a report since its last, which was for fiscal year 2003. In contrast, Hawaii has provided numerous reports and Guam has reported every year since 2004.

"Both Guam and Hawaii have reported that current levels of Compact impact funding are woefully insufficient to meet the demands placed on our affected jurisdictions by FAS migrant residents. The same is likely

also true for the Northern Marianas, but recent, verifiable data from your administration would help verify the discrepancy," Sablan said.

U.S. Congress provides \$30 million in annual mandatory funding divided among the Marianas, American Samoa, Guam, and Hawaii, under terms of the COFA Amendments Act of 2003, to help defray health, education, and public safety services or infrastructure costs associated with migrants from the Freely Associated States.

The Census Bureau estimated the number of FAS migrants in the Northern Marianas at 2,535 in 2018, a decrease from 2,660 in 2013.

IPI settles CNMI's BGRT issue for \$18.17M

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has settled with the CNMI government the latter's claim for non-payment of business gross revenue tax by agreeing to pay \$18.17 million.

The Department of Finance claimed that IPI supposedly owes \$30 million in unpaid BGRT, but IPI had stated it actually overpaid the government during previous years.

IPI said yesterday that it will pay in full the BGRT stipulated by CNMI Finance department by the end of March.

IPI said the total amount is \$18,176,801.

"IPI will continue to honor our business commitments and financial obligations," IPI said in a statement.

The government has yet to issue a statement about the settlement deal with IPI.

At the House's Ways and Means Committee meeting last April, Finance Department officials disclosed that IPI has so far only remitted to the CNMI government \$41,000 from October 2018 to April 23, 2019.

That's a far cry from the BGRT payments of \$40.9 million that IPI paid in 2016, \$67.7 million in 2017, and \$43.6 million in 2018.

IPI later belied reports that it's behind in its tax payments.

At the Commonwealth Casino Commission board's monthly meeting last December, Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said the casino owes the Commonwealth tens of

millions of dollars in BGRT, corporate income taxes, and developer's taxes and is seeking ways to avoid paying any taxes.

At the same CCC meeting, Rep. Edwin Propst (Ind-Saipan) appealed the commissioners to ensure that IPI pay the CNMI government \$18 million in developer's infrastructure tax, \$37 million in community benefit fund, and millions of dollars more to its vendors and former contractors.

Last Jan. 8, IPI disclosed that they have recently increased the number of staff on clearing outstanding payment requests from vendors and that to date, they have paid off all local vendors with outstanding payments under \$20,000 and over \$300,000. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Woman who obtained her driver's license through fraud pleads guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An overstaying Chinese national who presented a CNMI driver's license that she allegedly obtained through fraud has pleaded guilty in federal court.

At a change of plea hearing before U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy last Friday, Dingping Kan pleaded guilty to conspiracy to unlawfully produce an identification document. Kennedy later said she will recommend to Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona to accept Kan's guilty plea. Sentencing hearing will be on June 5 at 9am.

David G. Banes is the court-appointed counsel for Kan. Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe appeared for the U.S. government.

According to the plea deal, Kan, a resident of Tinian, agreed with another person on Saipan on Nov. 9, 2019, to unlawfully obtain a CNMI driver's license for Kan in exchange for \$500.

Kan put her expired driver's license, her social security card, a copy of her Chinese passport, a small passport photo of herself, and \$500 cash into a small bag. She then gave the bag to a person who was flying from Tinian to Saipan in order to give it to another individual. Kan later received a message on WeChat from the other individual confirming they had received the

documents and money.

Approximately three to four days later, the other individual sent Kan a fraudulently-made CNMI driver's license by giving it to a person flying from Saipan to Tinian. The defendant then picked it up at the airport. Kan knew it was illegal to obtain a driver's license without legal immigration status.

Homeland Security Investigations special agent David West stated in his report that Kan was encountered at the CNMI Customs inspection area at the seaport last Jan. 15, where she presented a CNMI driver's license to CNMI Customs as her identification.

West said that during an interview with law enforcement officers, Kan informed them that she had no legal immigration status to be in the U.S.

West said that when contacted about the incident, HSI conducted a search and later determined that Kan has indeed no immigration status and that the driver's license that she had presented to Customs was fraudulent.

Kan arrived last Wednesday at the Port of Saipan to clear a cargo container that was recently shipped to the Saipan seaport from China.

The defendant paid the dues as the consignee for the shipment and the cargo container was held for inspection.

BEACH CLEANUP

Volunteers from The Church of Almighty God braved the rains to join the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade pick up trash last Saturday at the Marine Beach in Kagman.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



IMPACT

From Page 1

originated from Wuhan, China. That has prompted three China-based airlines to suspend flights to the CNMI this February.

Speaking of her thoughts on the financial impact of these flights cancellations, King-Hinds said that ensuring the personal wellbeing and health of the citizens in the community should and must be a priority. What has been disappointing about these types of discussions, King-Hinds said, are the liberties that people take "to score political points."

"I'm over it and our citizens are over it. What this community cares about are plans. Plans that articulate how we can climb out of this

mess, get back on our feet and get back to the business of building the CNMI," she said.

At this point, she said, the need is to go beyond projecting impacts and, instead, work together to figure out how to overcome the economic uncertainties that the CNMI will face.

"Otherwise, you're adding to the problem and not being part of the solution," King-Hinds said.

Because of the massive decrease in the number of tourists entering the CNMI, the work hours of some hotel workers have already been reduced, Cavanagh disclosed.

"We are hoping to minimize the cancellations of the other two markets and hopefully be able to increase them," she said, referring to the Japan and Korea markets.

In explaining how President

Trump's proclamation affects travelers coming to the CNMI, CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio said in a press release that, starting yesterday, Feb. 3, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is directing all flights to the United States carrying persons who have recently traveled from China to arrive at one of the U.S. airports where the U.S. government has enhanced screening procedures.

If a U.S. citizen or a person exempted by Trump's proclamation has visited China within the last 14 days, that individual will be rebooked to arrive at one of the designated airports identified in the notification, Tenorio added.

Tenorio said non-U.S. citizens that are not excluded by the presidential proclamation will not be allowed to board the flight and will be referred

to the U.S. Consulate.

"This includes individuals entering the CNMI under the Chinese CNMI-Only Parole Program, through ESTA authorizations, the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program, and those holding CW-1 visas," he said.

Tenorio said the designated airport for the rebooked travelers heading to the CNMI is the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Tenorio said that travelers who attempt to arrive in the CNMI indirectly from mainland China will also be subject to USDHS' requirements.

"For example, if a traveler from mainland China arrives in South Korea, stays for less than 14 days, and later attempts to board a plane to the CNMI, then the airline will either not allow the individual to board the

flight to the CNMI or will rebook the individual to one of the designated airports identified in the proclamation," Tenorio said.

Even though these restrictions are in place, additional safeguards have been established to protect the CNMI.

Tenorio said if an individual that has visited China within 14 days somehow arrives in the CNMI, that person will be referred to the Commonwealth Health Center by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

He said CHCC will then determine the next appropriate steps, including whether isolation of the individual is necessary.

Tenorio said CPA has worked closely with the Commonwealth Health Care Corp., which runs CHC, and U.S. CBP to establish the necessary protocols.

Man arrested for allegedly driving a stolen vehicle

On Thursday, Jan. 31, 2020, at about 10:50pm, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting a possible pedestrian accident on Beach Road, in front of the KFC and Taco Bell restaurants in Susupe. The caller added that he was calling for the victim. DPS dispatched units to the area.

A nearby unit that was conducting routine patrol arrived and noticed the victim was holding a T-shirt against his

forehead. The victim appeared to have blood smeared across his face and body. At about 10:53pm, medics arrived and applied first aid to the victim.

The victim told police that he was parked near the U.S. Postal Service in Chalan Kanoa awaiting a call from a customer when three male juveniles approached him asking if he was a taxi operator. The three flashed the operator dollar bills and asked him if he could drive them somewhere.

The three juveniles got into the vehicle and directed the operator to the beach side behind the Aquarius Beach Tower. Once the operator drove the vehicle there, the juveniles instructed him to keep driving forward. The operator got suspicious as the area was dark with no people around.

As soon as the operator stopped the vehicle, one of the juveniles seated behind the driver's seat reached forward and began to choke the victim for about two minutes. As the victim was being choked, the two other juveniles repeatedly struck the victim's head. The

victim was unable to move as he was being restrained. The victim then bit the forearm of the juvenile strangling him and, when the juvenile let go, he quickly got out of the vehicle and ran toward the main road to seek help. During this time the victim saw his vehicle leaving the area heading north before losing sight of the car.

All units were informed to be on the lookout for the victim's vehicle.

At around 3:28am, an officer was conducting routine patrol along Paupau Beach in

San Roque when the officer noticed the described vehicle drive past. The officer notified dispatch that the reported vehicle had been located. When



Camacho

the officer pulled the vehicle over he noticed that the vehicle had blood splatter in the front seats and a male individual was operating the vehicle.

The operator got out of the vehicle and identified himself as Travis Camacho. He told police that he was just walking though Chalan Kanoa when his friend approached him with the vehicle. He got

in and joined his friend drive around. After sometime, he asked if he could use the car to go to the store. Camacho said that his friend told him to make sure he returned the car once he was done.

Camacho was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center before being transported to the Department of Corrections where he was booked and detained.

If you or someone you know want to report a crime that occurred in your village, we encourage you to call 911. If you would like to remain anonymous, call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. **(PR)**

Bill to designate CCC and ABTC agents as law enforcers advances

A Senate committee has recommended the adoption of House Bill 21-61, which would recognize the Department of Commerce's Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control Division and the Commonwealth Casino Commission as law enforcement agencies.

The Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government, Law, and Federal Relations recommended the bill's passage last Thursday, Jan. 30.

Introduced by Rep. Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan), the bill would amend the definition of "law enforcement" in the Commonwealth Code to include law enforcement officers of the ABTC and the enforcement and investigation officers of CCC's Division of Enforcement and Investigations.

The bill recognizes that "similar to our other respective law enforcement agencies, especially in situations of life-risking duress, these officers are usually the first line of defense in not only protecting themselves but the surround-

ing individuals that are present during such situations."

The bill deems it important for these ABTC and CCC officers to have the rights like other law enforcers, such as having the authority to carry firearms.

"It is of utmost importance to include the enforcement officers of the ABTC Division and the Commonwealth Casino Commission to allow for them to avail of the similar rights as other law enforcement officers in order for them to efficiently and effectively carry out their duties and responsibilities," the legislation notes.

Currently, there are 32 agencies whose agents are recognized as law enforcers: ports police of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, correctional officers, probation officers, the sergeants-at-arms of the House of Representatives and the Senate, police officers, Division of Fish and Wildlife conservation officers, and the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office investigators. **(Iva Maurin)**

3rd Veterans Resource Fair tonight

A Resource Fair for military veterans will be held tonight, Feb. 4, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, in order to provide information about the programs and services that are available to support veterans in the Marianas and their families. The event is free and open to the public.

The resource fair, from 5pm to 6:30pm, is being hosted by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), in collaboration with Veterans Affairs' Pacific Islands Health Care System and Honolulu Veterans Affairs Regional Office.

There will be special guest: acting director Kevin Amick from the Veterans Affairs Pacific Islands Health Care System, and director Sergio S. Chao of the Honolulu Veterans Affairs Regional Office. Amick and Chao handles the Pacific Region for Veteran's Affairs office.

The fair welcomes all veterans, survivors, military families, service member or any

who works with or on behalf of veterans throughout the Marianas. It will offer a wide variety of information and resources for veterans, hear feedback from veterans, and answer questions on health care or for veterans. They can approach any provider and either get immediate assistance, or obtain information on how to seek the services they need.

"This is important for our veterans, mainly because we might not have the answers to their question(s), but since our guests are coming from the main office in Honolulu, the answers they will receive will be more accurate," said CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs executive officer Stanley T. Iakopo.

Iakopo has been in the U.S. Air Force service for 20 years and just re-enlisted last December for another six years. That means he will retire in 2025. Iakopo, was appointed executive director of the CNMI VAO. **(Justine Nauta)**

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IT&E

Atalig seeks copies of plea deals of his 3 co-defendant

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig has asked the federal court to compel the U.S. government to produce copies of the plea agreements his three co-defendants had with the CNMI government in the case filed before the Superior Court.

Efraim M. Atalig, through counsel David G. Banes, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to compel the U.S. government to produce the plea agreements of Rota officials Dexter Apatang, Vanessa Charfauros, and Magdalena Mesngon.

Efraim Atalig's girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, joined in the motion.

In particular, the Ataligs want to see documents showing the promises the CNMI government made to Apatang, Charfauros, and Mesngon, as far as future prosecution against them is concerned.

Banes also requested copies of documents and records regarding presentence investigation reports and probation files of Apatang, Charfauros, and Mesngon, whom the prosecution intends to call at trial in federal court case.

Apatang, the former resident director of the Rota De-

partment of Labor, pleaded guilty last September and was slapped with a one-year prison term sentence, all suspended, for attending a Republican Party rally in Guam in June 2018 in the guise of a legitimate government trip.

Charfauros is the Rota Department of Public Works resident director, while Mesngon is the Rota Department of Community and Cultural Affairs resident director.

Banes also sought copies of personnel files, disciplinary actions, and investiga-



Atalig

tion reports of U.S. government agents who investigated the case—Federal Bureau agents Michael A. Gadsden and Haejun Park, and Office of the Public Auditor investigators Travis A. Hurst and Josue Genesis C. Cruz.

Banes said the U.S. government has an obligation to disclose exculpatory evidence, as well as any promises made to any witness, or any understanding or agreement, as to the prosecution of that witness.

Exculpatory evidence refers to evidence favorable to the

defendant in a criminal case that tends to exonerate the defendant of guilt.

Banes said some of Atalig's co-defendants in the Superior Court case have entered into plea agreements, including Apatang, Charfauros, and Mesngon.

Banes said Atalig believes the prosecution has subpoenaed or will subpoena them to testify at trial in the case against them (Ataligs) in federal court.

He said Atalig requested in writing such evidence on Sept. 20, 2018, but so far no such evidence related to the co-defendants or any other witness has been produced by the U.S. government, except a summary report of a proffer session with Charfauros.

Proffer session refers to a meeting between prosecutors and individuals who are the focus of an ongoing investigation.

Banes said the U.S. government has an obligation to disclose impeachment materials contained in personnel files of testifying officers when the defense makes a demand for their production.

He said Atalig believes that the prosecution will call agents who investigated the case to testify at trial such as Gadsden and Park, and OPA investigators Hurst and Cruz. He said Atalig asked for such evidence

on Sept. 20, 2018, but so far none has been produced.

Banes said he has personal knowledge that there is such evidence related to Park, at the very least.

In the federal court case, the charges against the Ataligs involve at least eight trips taken by the couple at different times in 2018 to Guam, Palau, the U.S. mainland, South Korea, and Saipan.

The Ataligs are being charged jointly with wire fraud, theft concerning programs receiving federal funds, and conspiracy to commit wire fraud and federal funds theft. The Ataligs have pleaded not guilty.

In the Superior Court case, the Office of the Attorney General filed a second amended information that re-charged Efraim Atalig and seven others, including Apatang, Charfauros, and Mesngon with misconduct in public office and eliminated the prior counts of theft.

The four other co-defendants are Department of Commerce resident director Dean Manglona, former Department of Public Safety resident director Eusebio Manglona, Department of Finance resident director Josepha Manglona, and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services resident director Dennis Mendiola.

Church group volunteers in Marine Beach cleanup

By **IVA MAURIN**
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Armed with raincoats, gloves, and trash bags, volunteers of the Cleanup Brigade, which was organized by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, braved the heavy rains last Feb. 1, Saturday, to pick up trash at the Marine Beach in Kagman.

About 760 lbs of trash were collected during the two-hour cleanup, with volunteers from BECQ and 14 members of The Church of Almighty God and the Christian of Holy City church.

Majority of the trash collected were plastic bottles, broken glass, and discarded iron buckets.

One of the volunteers, Jill Esther Yan, said their participation was a way for group to give back. "We live [on] Saipan. We like the weather here, and the local people are very friendly. We want to do something meaningful for Saipan," Yan said.

According to BECQ's Zab-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers from The Church of Almighty God braved the rains to join the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade pick up trash last Saturday at the Marine Beach in Kagman.

rina Shai, the cleanups are a message to "respect and protect our land, in the ways that our ancestors did."

Every first Saturday of the

month, the Cleanup Brigade meets up with volunteers to clean up a pre-identified area for two hours. Last month, the group collected a total of 360

lbs of trash in Garapan.

To sign up as a volunteer, or for more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1.

BECQ to bring watershed management message to community

By **IVA MAURIN**
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Faced with islandwide issues such as pollution, sedimentation, and erosions, community-level meetings will be held all over the islands, following a recent workshop decision-makers had to discuss CNMI's three major watersheds: Garapan, Laolao, and Achugao.

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, through its Division of Coastal Resources Management, is working on a plan for the future management of the three watersheds, revolving around priorities for the next five years.

"The next stage will be having community meetings, similar to what we had but at the community level, to find out issues that the community identifies, and get the response to the actions identified by

agencies during this last meeting," CRM watershed coordinator Zachary Williams said.

The Watershed Working Group is also being resuscitated to discuss issues and to cooperatively plan with other agencies toward working on watershed projects.

Williams said the group, while more focused on watersheds on Saipan, will also be discussing the watershed on Rota. He added that the discussions, which will happen on March, will be open to the public.

In terms of watershed management, BECQ, through its Division on Environmental Quality, has been doing stream and water quality monitoring. DEQ is also working on their Integrated Report, which summarizes surface water quality in the CNMI over the last two years.

"Water quality values are

a great indicator of [watershed] management success, it's a baseline indicator," Williams said, adding that it is one of the biggest, most direct, and quickest indicator of project success.

"Let's say one of our projects is revegetation on the uplands. We can look at sediment loads in the streams as an indicator if that was successful or not. If we reduce sediment by revegetating, then that's good, but if we're seeing no difference or even worse, then we have to reevaluate our project," he explained.

The community, too, can greatly help in watershed management.

"There's lots of things you can do as a resident in terms of disposing of waste properly," Williams said. The proper disposal of garbage, as well as not dumping chemicals and

cooking oils down the drain but disposing them properly, is important.

"There's a lot you can do in terms of improving your yard's ability to capture water and filter that water, particularly like landscaping with native plants [or] rain capture from your gutter. ... Those add up in terms of water getting washed off onto our streets and causing further erosion," he added.

Williams also encourages members of the community to be aware of what's happening in the community, and to join in planning meetings and projects that keep the community and the islands' resources clean.

To be updated on watershed initiatives and on the scheduled meetings of the Watershed Working Group, visit the CRM website at <https://dcrn.gov.mp>.

Over 17 teachers learn how to teach using art

Over 17 teachers of the Public School System took part in a workshop last Jan. 30 at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe that was intended to teach them how to use basic drawing as a tool for teaching.

The workshop, called "Kids Helping Kids" was organized by the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, in partnership with Pacific Resources for Education and Learning, and was led by Dr. Lori Phillips, PREL's director of Pacific Center for the Arts and Humanities in Education.

The workshop was more than just about how to illustrate a book and was meant to teach teachers how to teach students how to observe their environment, to have "readers that are culturally appropriate

for this island."

"This [workshop] is not necessarily about illustration; it's about the art of seeing an observation," said Phillips.

Phillips is hoping that, after this workshop, that someone will take this idea and continue to build on it so that future and current teachers will be able to learn or enhance their skills.

Phillips manages the National Endowment for the Arts Pacific Territories Programs. She works with arts councils throughout the Pacific. She is also responsible for authoring the *Pacific Island Alphabet Series*, which are image books that were created by children and are in 14 Pacific languages, and *Island Worlds*, a film and curriculum about art of the Pacific. (Justine Nauta)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Roxanne Ben! You're amazing, talented, fun-loving, a shining star and, most of all, a super sweet girl who's loved very much. Happy sweet 16th, Roxy! We love you! Greetings come from your family.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Kagman schools set PTSA meeting

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman Unified Schools, on the island of Saipan, will be having a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020, at 5:30pm in the Kagman High School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents, and guardians to attend this meeting. Child care will be provided. Call the any of the three schools at 237.3150 (KAGE), 237.3165 (COVMS), or 237.3196 (KHS) if you have any questions or concerns. (PR)

DCCA-DYS NPLM roadside waving postponed

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs - Division of Youth Services would like to inform the public that the National Parent Leadership Month roadside waving that was scheduled for yesterday afternoon was postponed until further notice due to inclement weather conditions. The NPLM committee will be meeting soon to set a new date for the roadside waving. For any questions, call the DYS main office at 237-1000. (PR)

Pagan earthquake

At 10:42pm on Jan. 31 2020, a 4.7-magnitude earthquake occurred 5 kilometers east-southeast of Pagan in the Northern Marianas Islands. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center did not issue any tsunami warnings or advisories. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)

Relucio lands on Seton U dean's list

SOUTH ORANGE—Ryan Christian Relucio of Saipan has qualified for the fall 2019 dean's list at Seton Hall University. After the close of every semester, undergraduate students completing all courses with a GPA of 3.4, with no grades lower than "C", qualify for the dean's list. Seton Hall, a Catholic university, is home to over 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students and offering more than 90 majors. (PR)

Water service interruption on Wednesday

There will be a scheduled water service interruption this Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020, from 8am to 4pm, on Capital Hill 1200 Block, 1300 Block, Wireless Ridge, Eggi Drive, Marshall Loop and for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers along Capital Hill Isa Drive to the the Kagman Mobil gas station. This will allow CUC's water operations

personnel to repair five service line leaks on Marshall Loop. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4282. (PR)

Our Lady of Lourdes novena set

The Santa Lourdes Community in AsTeo has announced that the novena in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes will begin on Feb. 7 and will end on Feb. 15. From Feb. 7 to Feb. 14, the rosary and novena will start at 5pm at the Santa Lourdes Shrine in AsTeo. On Saturday, Feb. 15, the day of the fiesta, the rosary will be said at pm, followed by the novena, and the Mass will be held at 3pm at the Shrine. Procession will follow after the Mass. (PR)

Jastillana named to dean's list

BOSTON, M—Lee Ann Jastillana, a native of Saipan, has been named to the Emerson College dean's list for the fall 2019 semester. Jastillana is majoring in Journalism and is a member of the Class of 2020. The requirement to make Emerson's Dean's List is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher. Based in Boston, Massachusetts, Emerson College has 3,780 undergraduates and 670 graduate students. For more information, visit emerson.edu. (PR)

Supreme Court to hold summer pre-law program

The CNMI Supreme Court plans to conduct the Judiciary Summer Pre-Law Program in June-July 2020 provided there

is sufficient interest from college students.

The pre-law program, which will run for three weeks, provides participants with the opportunity to experience academic life of a first-year law student. Law professors will teach two introductory law courses, supplemented with legal writing and appellate argument components. (PR)

Veterans Affairs Resource Fair set

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is having a Veterans Resource Fair on Saipan

today, Feb. 4, 2020, from 5pm to 6:30pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe near the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

The Listening Sessions on Tinian and Rota will be held on the following dates and time:

■ Tinian: Feb. 5, 2020, from 10am to 12:30 pm at the Tinian Library.

■ Rota: Feb. 6, 2020, from 10am to 12:30pm at the Mayor of Rota's conference hall.

The outreach will be hosted by VA Pacific Islands Health Care System acting director

Kevin Amick and Honolulu Veterans Benefits Regional Office director Sergio S. Chao.

All veterans, their families, survivors and any organization(s) or individual(s) who works with or on behalf of veterans are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. (PR)

Saturday writing workshops

The Marianas Writers Movement will have a series of Saturday workshops. Each

workshop will be two hours, beginning at 1:30pm in the VTC Room of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. The workshops, "Beyond the First Draft," will focus on the editing process. These workshops are open to all over age 13, and are free.

Each workshop is different in content. Here is the tentative schedule for topics:

■ Feb. 8 Workshop 4: Line editing thoughts

■ Feb. 15 Workshop 5: Pitching your novel

■ Feb. 22 Workshop 6: Resources/Hands-on/Feedback/Q&A (PR)



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Lawmakers move to confirm Demapan nomination to SHEFA board

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation moved last Jan. 31 to confirm the nomination of Kaelani Marie B. Demapan as member of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board.

Demapan will serve the remaining two-year term of Ursula Lifofoi-Aldan, who passed away in September last year.

Speaking before the SNILD Standing Committee on Judiciary & Governmental Operations, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang appealed for the confirmation of Demapan, an early intervention counselor at the Northern Marianas College. It was Apatang who nominated Demapan to the SHEFA board.

"Miss Demapan has an accomplished academic track that I sincerely believe has prepared her to offer and bring to the table new ideas about how SHEFA can continue to assist our college students and trade school students realize their ambition, pursuing their higher education and skills training," Apatang said.

Apatang added that bring-



Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang and Kaelani Marie B. Demapan have their picture taken at the House of Representatives chamber last Friday. Apatang nominated Demapan to serve as a member of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board.

IVA MAURIN

ing Demapan's experience as a college student to the SHEFA board would make current and future college students' higher education journey less stressful and more productive as she knows what it takes to survive through college because she had lived that life.

"In a time when our island's financial resources are limited, and the easiest option to control expenditures is to make cuts—cuts that potentially could affect students who are barely making ends meet—I

am certain that Miss Demapan's experience will help make those potential hurts or effect less of a burden on our students," he added.

Backed by a throng of supporters, Demapan said that serving on the board would be her way of giving back to the same community that supported her entire educational journey, and added that she will serve three things: "an eye, an ear, and a lending hand."

Demapan, herself a recipient of SHEFA and CNMI Scholarship funds, graduated cum

laude with a bachelor's degree in psychology from Cham-

nade University in Honolulu and earned a master's degree

in Higher Education from the University of Michigan.

USCIS updates process for accepting petitions

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced Friday that, as part of the adjustment of its international footprint to increase efficiencies, Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative, will only be processed domestically by USCIS or internationally by the Department of State in certain circumstances beginning Feb 1, 2020.

DOS will assume responsibility for certain services previously provided at USCIS international offices, services that DOS already provide in countries where USCIS does not have a presence. Eligible active-duty service members assigned overseas will file their Form I-130 locally with DOS, as will certain

non-military petitioners who meet specific criteria for consular processing.

"USCIS continues to modernize and become more efficient as an agency," said USCIS deputy director Mark Koumans. "Since the Department of State has a much larger international presence, we have delegated authority to our State partners to accept and adjudicate petitions for immediate relatives abroad in certain circumstances. USCIS continues to expand online filing options, which are available to those filing domestically or those filing from abroad, saving applicants and petitioners time and money."

Generally, DOS will process Form I-130 locally if the petition falls under blanket au-

thorization criteria, as defined by USCIS:

■ Temporary blanket authorizations for instances of prolonged or severe civil strife or a natural disaster; or

■ Blanket authorization for U.S. service members assigned to military bases abroad.

In addition to these blanket authorizations, DOS maintains the discretion to accept Form I-130 if a U.S. citizen petitioner meets the "exceptional circumstance" criteria as outlined in the policy manual update.

All other petitioners residing overseas must file Form I-130 online or by mail through the USCIS Dallas Lockbox facility for domestic processing. (PR)

Updates to USCIS biometrics collection

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced Friday updates to its Policy Manual that address mobile biometrics services and fingerprint waivers.

USCIS requires biometrics from individuals who submit applications, petitions, and requests for certain immigration benefits. USCIS uses biometrics to verify identity, produce secure documents, and conduct required criminal and national security background checks.

Mobile Biometrics Services

Generally, individuals have their biometrics collected by appointment at an applicant

support center (ASC). In limited cases, at the discretion of the agency, USCIS may make special arrangements to collect biometrics from those who cannot attend scheduled ASC appointments in person, due to disability or other health reasons.

This update clarifies that USCIS will not provide mobile biometrics services in prisons or jails for individuals who cannot attend their ASC appointment due to incarceration or detention.

This policy applies only to individuals held in non-DHS custody. For those in DHS custody, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement will continue to

collect biometrics.

Fingerprint Waivers

The updated guidance also clarifies that an approved fingerprint waiver is tied to the specific petition, request, or application listed on notice of the appointment for submission of biometrics at the ASC. In other words, someone cannot use an approved waiver for any other biometrics requirement for any future filings.

Individuals may qualify for a waiver of the fingerprint requirement if they cannot provide fingerprints because of a medical condition. Only certain USCIS employees are authorized to grant a fingerprint waiver. (USCIS)

Public warned of high surf, rip currents

A high surf advisory remains in effect until 6am today, Tuesday.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, the high rip current risk remains in effect through late tonight. Hazardous surf of 7 to 9 feet and dangerous

and frequent rip currents are expected along north facing reefs of the Marianas until 6am today.

Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. The public is being warned of dangerous swimming and surfing conditions and localized beach erosion.

The public is advised to avoid venturing out along

the reef line, especially along north facing reefs. Large breaking waves can knock you down. If you become caught in a rip current, remain calm. Stay afloat while waiting for help. To swim out of a rip current, swim parallel to shore and back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against a rip current as you will tire quickly. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 04, 1999

Local economy in dire straits

With global markets becoming highly competitive on apparel products, the deepening slump in the tourism industry, including a persistent agenda for a federal takeover of the NMI, the future outlook of the local economy looks very dismal unless local leadership moves proactively to rescue what's left, according to Willie Tan, in an informal meeting with members of the legislature yesterday afternoon. The meeting was called to brief lawmakers what action needs to be taken immediately to salvage the trust and confidence of buyers from the US mainland on manufacturers here. It includes immediate consideration of an independent garment factories monitoring system in all factories here.

Permanent residency eyed to deal with labor shortage

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Kerry M. Deets yesterday proposed the drafting of a legislation that will grant permanent residency status to guest workers so that they can find jobs in the CNMI without any restrictions. This was one of the possible solutions recommended by Deets during the Chamber's meeting in a move to help the Northern Marianas find solutions

to its labor and immigration problems. During the meeting, she urged the membership to come up with suggestions on how they can help the CNMI government stave off federalization of labor and immigration policies. "If we do not take a solution-oriented approach, then we run the risk of allowing the federal government to determine our future.

February, 04 2000

Food stamp recipients jump 25%

The number of food stamp recipients jumped 25 percent from 1998 to 1999 or a total of 1,517 households, as the island's economy remain at a standstill, according to James Kintol, Nutritional Assistance Program director. Due to the increase in food stamp grantees, Mr. Kintol said he has asked for a \$1 million additional funding on top of its recently approved \$5.1 million budget for Fiscal Year 2000. "They did approve the request for additional budget since there are indications that the food stamp recipients are increasing. We just have to submit the proper documents or show proof to justify the request," he said.

To mitigate garment pullout, CPA sets up reserve fund

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is setting up a supplemental reserve fund in efforts to obtain investment rating for its seaport bond and to mitigate the possible impact of the impending Saipan garment manufacturing sector pullout to its apparently worn out coffers. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said the Ports Authority is working at making an initial \$2.7 million deposit to the Seaport Reserve Fund within the year. Mr. Salas told reporters CPA plans to deposit \$700,000 to the Fund every

year to reach the target \$8 million in five years. He pointed out that the Reserve Fund is being put in place to alleviate the anticipated drop in seaport revenues once the apparel manufacturing sector pulls out of Saipan in a period of five to seven years.

February 04, 2006

OWWA official heaps praise on Saipan OFWs

A ranking official of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration expressed his admiration for the overseas Filipino workers on Saipan for making the effort to enhance their skills by recently learning the culinary arts. In a letter read by Welfare Officer Mary Dait, OWWA central office administrator Marianito D. Roque extended his congratulations to some 85 Filipino nonresident workers in the CNMI who recently finished their Culinary and Food Processing training course sponsored by OWWA. "I am really happy that our overseas Filipino workers on Saipan took it upon themselves to continue learning and acquiring skills and values that would empower them and make their gradual reintegration to the mainstream of Filipino society more successful," Roque said.

Employer is sanctioned for application neglect

An excusable neglect in filing a Labor work permit application has resulted in the imposition of sanctions against an employer. Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Herbert D. Soll ordered the employer, Felix S. Hofschneider, to pay \$200 for the late filing of the application for Concesa J. Baer. Soll said Baer is eligible to transfer to another employer within 45 days. If an application is not filed within that period, Baer must leave the CNMI at the expense of her last employer, Hofschneider.

2020 Night With the Knights

PHOTOS By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Mount Carmel School's class of 1979 pose for a photo during MCS' Night with the Knights last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.



Mount Carmel School alumni pose for a photo during MCS' Night with the Knights last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.



Mount Carmel School alumni pose for a photo during MCS' Night with the Knights last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.



Mount Carmel School alumni pose for a photo during MCS' Night with the Knights last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.



Zita Sablan, third from the left, is awarded Legacy Teacher of the Year during Mount Carmel School's Night with the Knights last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.



Jacqueline Che, second from the left, is awarded the Millennium Falcon Award during Mount Carmel School's Night with the Knights last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.



Mount Carmel School alumni pose for a photo during MCS' Night with the Knights last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.



Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero gives his opening remarks during MCS' Night with the Knights last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.



Mount Carmel School's 2020 Alumni of the Year Ben Babauta, left, poses with fellow alumni Agnes McPhetres during MCS' Night with the Knights last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.



Mount Carmel School Class of 2005 is awarded Class of the Year during MCS' Night with the Knights last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Improve bus safety: Seat and shoulder belts should be mandatory

Less than half of the tour buses on the nation's highways have seat and shoulder belts, safety equipment the National Transportation Safety Board has been recommending for the past 50 years.

It shouldn't take another accident with injuries and fatalities to push the seat belt issue from recommendation to requirement.

The Jan. 5 multivehicle crash on the Pennsylvania Turnpike raised the issue of motor coach safety once again after the driver of the bus involved in the accident and two passengers were among five people killed. There were no safety belts in the bus for passengers, only the driver.

The NTSB has been pushing for passenger safety belts since the 1960s, but the only real progress has been a requirement for belts on larger buses built after 2016. More than half of the 30,000 buses on the road do not fall into that category.

Also troubling is the fact that smaller buses—those between 10,000 and 26,000 pounds—have no requirement for safety belts.

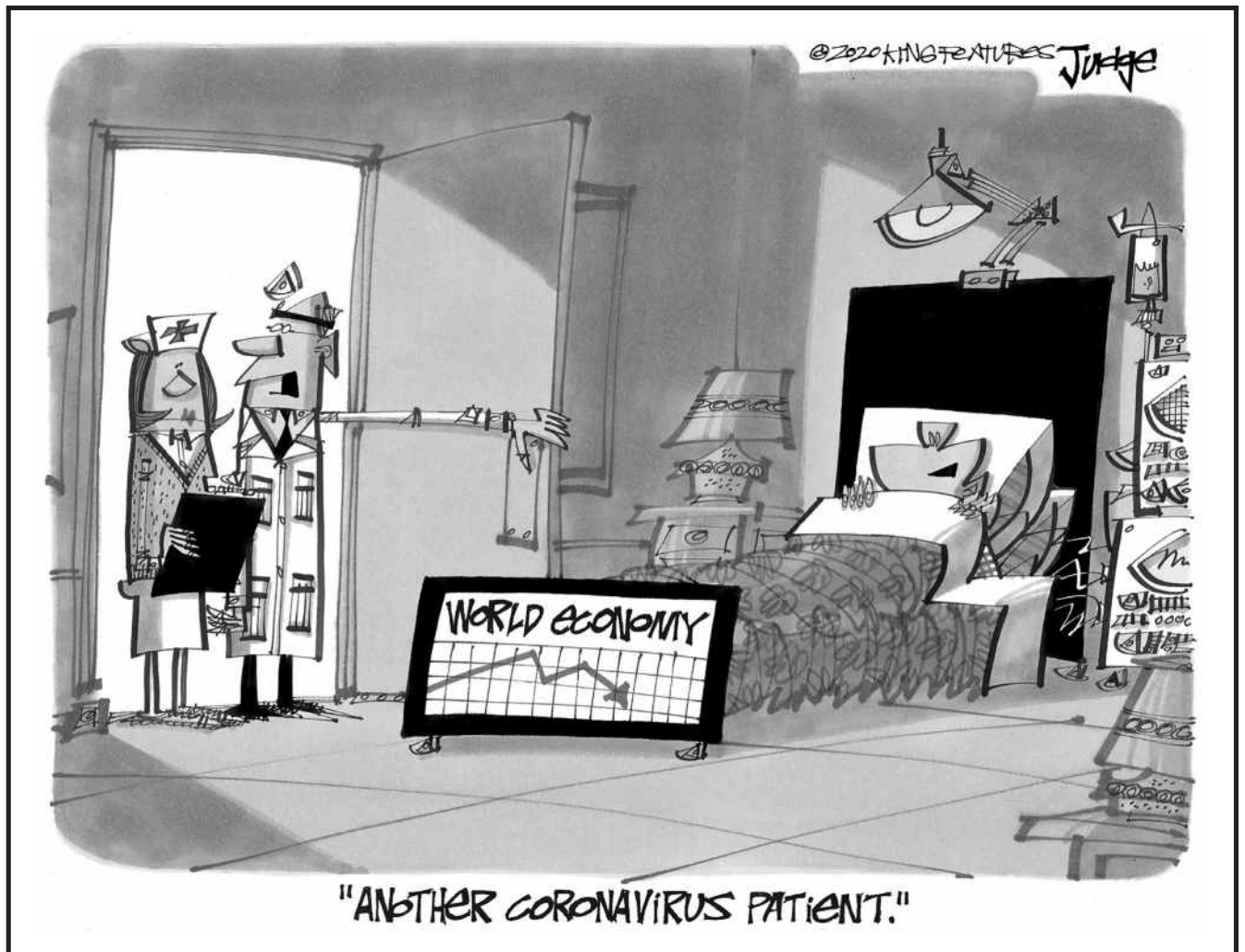
Despite a mountain of evidence showing that seat and shoulder belts save lives in vehicle crashes, there seems little urgency to make the NTSB recommendations mandatory. The safety board is an independent agency that reviews accidents and can only make recommendations to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, part of the Department of Transportation.

In a 2016 report to Congress, the traffic administration estimated it would cost \$14,650 to \$40,000 to retrofit each existing tour bus. Pointing to studies showing that only about 10% of bus passengers use available seat and shoulder belts, the NHTSA concluded "retrofitting was unlikely to produce substantial safety benefits."

The benefits may not be substantial, but they certainly matter. From 2009 to 2018, 461 passengers were killed when tour buses crashed, according to the Transportation Department. Many of those fatalities were the result of passengers being ejected from the vehicle or thrown about the interior after impact.

There is a cost factor in requiring safety belts on all tour buses, but it's time Congress took the repeated recommendations from the NTSB and made them law. A half-century of warnings is far too long to wait for action.

(c)2020 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



Coronavirus is a concern, but flu takes more lives

The new coronavirus outbreak is dominating headlines. More than 7,700 people have contracted the pneumonia-like illness since it was first reported last month, and more than 170 have died. China has imposed a quarantine for over 50 million people. The U.S. has confirmed five cases, all among travelers, and the State Department has issued advisories that warn against travel to China.

While government institutions mobilize to contain the spread of this new disease, Americans should keep in mind that there is a virus right here in our country that will sicken and kill many more people this year: influenza.

The influenza virus causes the disease commonly known as the flu. This winter, it has already affected at least 15 million Americans and led to 140,000 hospitalizations. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 8,200 Americans have died this flu season. That number is expected to rise much higher before winter ends. During some recent years, nearly eight times that number, up to 61,000 Americans, have died from the flu.

Concerns about coronavirus bring to mind the spread of SARS two decades ago. In the early 2000s, SARS caused worldwide panic as it spread to over 26 countries. But compare the number of deaths from flu to the much-feared SARS, caused by a coronavirus that is related to the one implicated in this new outbreak. In all, SARS resulted in at least 8,000 illnesses and 774 deaths. The flu affects up to 5 million people and kills 650,000 around the world each year.

Much of the concern around SARS was its contagious potential: One person could spread the virus to two to four others. The new coronavirus is believed to have a similar contagion pattern so far. While this necessitates strict adherence to infection control protocols, it's important to keep in mind that other viruses also have a high potential for rapid spread. One person with measles will spread it to an average of 18 to 20 people, while someone with influenza could spread the virus to someone six feet away through direct contact or by coughing and sneezing.

Unlike for the new coronavirus, there are proven vaccines against the flu and measles. The seasonal flu vaccine is safe and protects against the types of influenza viruses that are predicted to be most common during each season. Most years, the vaccine is effective against up to 60% of influenza strains. The CDC recommends that every person over 6 months old receive the flu vaccine, unless they have specific medical reasons not to.

By LEANA S. WEN
The Baltimore Sun



Dr. Leana S. Wen is a visiting professor of Health Policy and Management at the George Washington University Milken Institute of Public Health, where she is also a distinguished fellow at the Mullan Institute for Health Workforce Equity. She was the former Baltimore City Health commissioner and has also served as the president of Planned Parenthood. Twitter @DrLeanaWen.

Yet vaccination rates remain low. Less than half of Americans receive it, with rates in some recent years dipping to less than 40%. One survey found that one in four people report not getting the vaccine because they think they are unlikely to get sick from the flu. The rise of the anti-vaccine movement has also resulted in the highest number of cases of measles in the U.S. since 1992.

As new information is uncovered about the recent coronavirus outbreak, we can take steps to avoid the diseases that we can prevent. It's not too late to get the flu vaccine. (Make sure to update other vaccines too.) Encourage family, friends and peers to get vaccinated, as well. While influenza is deadliest among children, older adults, pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems, no one is protected from the virus without vaccination. Take simple measures, including cleaning communal surfaces; avoiding touching your nose, mouth and eyes; and washing your hands frequently with soap and warm water.

None of this is meant to make light of emerging diseases. SARS would have been much worse without the vigorous efforts of the international community. Governments need to do much more to understand and control the new coronavirus outbreak. Americans should continue to heed travel advisories and guidance from public health officials.

But we should also call attention to a pathogen that will cause many more illnesses and deaths this year. After all, what will sicken us and our loved ones is much less likely to be the novel virus from afar than the disease that spreads among us already, year after year.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Death of a sports dad superstar

When Kobe Bryant died Sunday morning in a helicopter crash, along with his 13-year-old daughter Gianna and seven others, the world wept.

The sudden loss ripped through the connective tissue that binds the sports universe, a breach made worse by the knowledge that Kobe's and Gigi's stories had many chapters yet to be written. Though much will be made of Kobe's legacy and loss as one of the NBA's transcendent superstars, it is the haunting knowledge of what was still to come for father and daughter together that triggers a unique sense of sorrow.

Kobe and Gigi died on their way to a basketball tournament at Bryant's Mamba Sports Academy in Thousand Oaks—Gigi as a player, her dad as her coach. They died on their way to pushing women's basketball forward.

You could tell just by the way they watched the game, court-side at WNBA contests, NBA events and college games. In one photo published again and again since the crash, Kobe is wearing an electric-orange hoodie stamped front and center with the WNBA silhouette, laughing with Gigi. In a YouTube video, she nods along with her father's animated hand movements, pursing her lips at his no doubt much-too-in-depth analysis, grinning at his advice.

You could also tell by a few of Kobe's latest social media likes, chuckling along with the rest of sports Twitter as soon-to-be No. 1 WNBA pick Sabrina Ionescu realized she had posted another triple-double for the University of Oregon and acknowledging Alana Beard's retirement from the women's game.

Bryant's vocal support for NCAA women's hoops and the WNBA marked a new focus for the L.A. icon—one that the sport and perhaps the man himself badly needed. For two decades, he'd been Showtime Kobe, 81-point-night Kobe, one-two-three-four-five rings Kobe. To some, his legacy would be forever tainted by 2003's very public rape allegations and the

out-of-court settlement and apology that followed.

Yet, after 2015 and his retirement from the NBA, Kobe wrote over if not erased the controversy. One of the most recognizable athletes in the world had successfully reinvented himself, adding to an overwhelming resume. He became Kobe the thoughtful artist, producing an Oscar-winning short film "Dear Basketball"; Kobe the philanthropist, businessman and mentor; and especially Kobe the sports dad, coaching Gigi's Amateur Athletic Union team.

His evolution from NBA star to women's basketball advocate was so seamless that it might have persuaded many of the WNBA's doubters to reconsider their indifference. Bryant loved the game of basketball, in all its forms and at every level. Gigi, from all reports, had inherited that same love, and together the pair used any platform they could to prove persistent advocates for changing the way the world viewed women in basketball.

The WNBA, less than two weeks removed from a landmark collective bargaining agreement designed to elevate the earning potential of its stars, continues to make strides in viewership as it fights behind the scenes for more media attention. However, there remains little crossover between NBA fans' breathless dedication to their teams and their willingness to tune in to, say, the Washington Mystics' Elena Delle Donne battling through a serious back injury in the 2019 WNBA championship in October. The Bryants, through their ties to active players in both leagues, were busy building that bridge.

Kobe made his intentions clear. In a CNN interview two weeks ago, he was asked if there would ever come a day when women could play with the men in the NBA. He didn't hesitate: "Right now," he said, there are a lot of players with the skills. On Jimmy Kimmel's show in 2018, he proudly acknowledged that he didn't need a son: Gianna could and would carry on his legacy.

The WNBA has a lot of future makers, up-and-comers: The

By LOGAN JONES

Los Angeles Times

Logan Jones is a contributor to the WNBA Nation podcast and a sports columnist in Utah.



Seattle Storm's Breanna Stewart has a championship title, a league most valuable player award and a finals MVP to her name in just four years in the pros. A'ja Wilson entered the league in 2018, earned All-Star accolades twice and has her Vegas Aces poised for a 2020 title run. Ionescu, holder of the NCAA record for career triple-doubles (for men as well as women) will be drafted in April.

The future of women's basketball is bright, but now it will be forced to move forward absent two of its most compelling allies and mourning what might have been. How much faster would the women's game have grown, how far would Gigi have risen? How exactly would the continued support of a bona fide basketball superstar and the emergence of his daughter as a player have changed the course of the women's game.

Kobe Bryant's confidence in his daughters' ability to create their own legacies—and to further his—should be as honored as the rest of his towering achievements. The images of the superhuman purple-and-gold Kobe flying toward the rim will endure as long as basketball is played. So too should the more human images of the sports dad, on the sidelines in his bright orange WNBA hoodie, arm around his daughter, enjoying the game, passing it on—a different kind of champion.

The cult of Western shaming

An ancient habit of Western elites is a certain selectivity in condemnation.

Sometimes Westerners apply critical standards to the West that they would never apply to other nations.

My colleague at the Hoover Institution, historian Niall Ferguson, has pointed out that Swedish green-teen celebrity Greta Thunberg might be more effective in her advocacy for reducing carbon emissions by redirecting her animus. Instead of hectoring Europeans and Americans, who have recently achieved the planet's most dramatic drops in the use of fossil fuels, Thunberg might instead turn her attention to China and India to offer her "how dare you" complaints to get their leaders to curb carbon emissions.

Whether the world continues to spew dangerous levels of carbons will depend largely on policies in China and India. After all, these two countries account for over a third of the global population and continue to grow their coal-based industries.

In the late 1950s, many elites in United States bought the Soviet Union line that the march of global communism would "bury" the West. Then, as Soviet power eroded in the 1980s, Japan Inc. and its ascendant model of state-sponsored industry became the preferred alternative to Western-style democratic capitalism.

Once Japan's economy ossified, the new utopia of the 1990s was supposedly the emerging European Union. Americans were supposed to be awed that the euro gained ground on the dollar. Europe's borderless democratic socialism and its "soft power" were declared preferable to the reactionary U.S.

By 2015, the EU was a mess, so China was preordained as the inevitable global superpower. American intellectuals pointed to its high-speed rail transportation, solar industries and gleaming airports, in contrast to the hollowed-out and grubby American heartland.

Now the curtain has been pulled back on the interior rot of

the Chinese Communist Party, its gulag-like reeducation camps, its systematic mercantile cheating, its Orwellian surveillance apparatus, its serial public health crises and its primitive hinterland infrastructure.

After the calcification of the Soviet Union, Japan Inc., the EU and the Chinese superpower, no one quite knows which alternative will next supposedly bury America.

The U.S. and Europe are often quite critical of violence against women, minorities and gays. The European Union, for example, has often singled out Israel for its supposed mistreatment of Palestinians on the West Bank.

Yet if the purpose of Western human rights activism is to curb global bias and hate, then it would be far more cost-effective to concentrate on the greatest offenders.

China is currently detaining about a million Muslim Uighurs in reeducation camps. Yet activist groups aren't calling for divestment, boycotts and sanctions against Beijing in the same way they target Israel.

Homosexuality is a capital crime in Iran. Scores of Iranian gays reportedly have been incarcerated and thousands executed under theocratic law since the fall of the Shah in 1979. Yet rarely do Western activist groups call for global ostracism of Iran.

Don't look to the United Nations Human Rights Council for any meaningful condemnation of worldwide prejudice and hatred, although it is a frequent critic of both the U.S. and Israel.

Many of the 47 member nations of the Human Rights Council are habitual violators of human rights. In 2017, nine member nations persecuted citizens who were actively working to implement U.N. standards of human rights.

There are many reasons for Westerners' selective outrage and pessimism toward their own culture. Cowardice explains some of the asymmetry. Blasting tiny democratic Israel will not result in any retaliation. Taking on a powerful China or a murderous Iran could earn retribution.

By VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

Tribune News Service

Victor Davis Hanson is a classicist and historian at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, and the author of The Second World Wars: How the First Global Conflict Was Fought and Won, from Basic Books. You can reach him by emailing authorvdh@gmail.com.








Guilt also explains some of the selectivity. European nations are still blamed for 19th century colonialism and imperialism. They will always seek absolution, as the citizens of former colonial and Third World nations act like perpetual victims—even well into the postmodern 21st century.

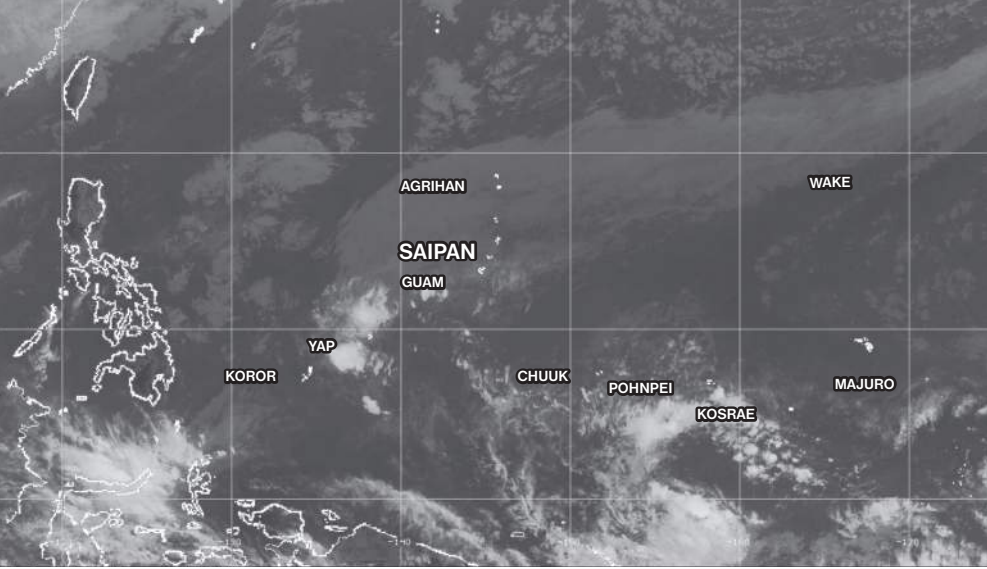
Virtual-signaling is increasingly common. Western elites often harangue about misdemeanors when they cannot address felonies—a strange sort of psychological penance that excuses their impotence.

It is much easier for the city of Berkeley, Calif., to ban clean-burning, U.S.-produced natural gas in newly constructed buildings than it is to outlaw far dirtier crude oil from Saudi Arabia. Currently, the sexist, homophobic, autocratic Saudis are the largest source of imported oil in California, sending the state some 100 million barrels per year, without which thousands of Berkeley motorists could not get to work. Apparently, outlawing clean, domestic natural gas allows one to justify importing unclean Saudi oil.

Western elites are perpetually aggrieved. But the next time they direct their lectures at a particular target, consider the source and motivation of their outrage.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	
87°	77°	87°	77°	88°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 9:02 AM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam weather radar shows scattered showers moving through the Marianas, primarily southeast of Guam. IR satellite shows similar clouds over the northern Marianas, the radar beam is probably over shooting their tops, as the tops of these clouds are only about 12 thousand feet high. The VAD wind profile indicates northeast winds of 23 to 28 knots through the lowest 5 thousand feet of the air, then turn southeast and diminish to 15 to 20 knots. The buoys reveal combined seas of 7 to 10 feet composed primarily of a north-northwest swell, an east-northeast trade-wind swell, and locally generated wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	83° / 76°			
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°			
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°			
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°			
Pohnpei	Windy	86° / 79°			
Kosrae	Windy	86° / 79°			
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°			

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	72° / 61°			
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	34° / 21°			
Hong Kong	Showers	70° / 63°			
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	82° / 67°			
London	Partly Cloudy	50° / 34°			
Los Angeles	Sunny	63° / 44°			
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°			
Melbourne	Sunny	72° / 54°			
Miami	Partly Cloudy	77° / 69°			
New York	Showers	53° / 42°			
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	52° / 34°			
Paris	Showers	48° / 36°			
Busan	Sunny	37° / 25°			
Rome	Partly Cloudy	66° / 39°			
Salem	Cloudy	70° / 61°			
San Francisco	Sunny	54° / 42°			
Seoul	Sunny	27° / 10°			
Tokyo	Sunny	59° / 34°			
Washington, DC	Showers	61° / 48°			



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:49 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.25
9:08 AM	LOW TIDE		1.01
2:37 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.53
10:24 PM	LOW TIDE		-0.07

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:45 AM	6:16 PM
Wednesday	6:45 AM	6:16 PM
Thursday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Friday	6:44 AM	6:17 PM
Saturday	6:44 AM	6:17 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:46 AM	1:29 PM
Wednesday	-	2:40 AM	2:18 PM
Thursday	-	3:37 AM	3:12 PM
Friday	-	4:36 AM	4:11 PM
Saturday	-	5:34 AM	5:14 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2020									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily		UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily	
UA156	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6		UA112	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7		SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily	
SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6						
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)					BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily		7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	
					7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily		OZ6233	7:30am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6	
OZ626	2:10am	6:05am	1		OZ623	8:10am	1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7	
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7		7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily	
OZ626	3:35am	7:20am	4		TW309	11:10am	4:40pm	Daily	
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily		OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7	
OZ6243	3:10pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6		TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily	
OZ624	3:30pm	7:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7		OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily		OZ625	9:05pm	2:25am+1	3	
TW310	5:40pm	10:15pm	Daily		7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN		UA189/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM	
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM		OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR		OZ702/625	12:05pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN	
UA156/183	6:20pm	9:50pm	Daily via GUM		UA192/174	10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	
UA156/193	6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR		UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
					OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN	
					OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	
					OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN	
					OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3 via ICN	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN		OZ746/6233	12:35am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ746/623	12:35am	1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	
OZ626/721	3:35am	11:50am	4 via ICN		OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UO43	5:40am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7 last flight on Feb 9		OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
					OZ722/625	1:15pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN	
OZ6243/9661	3:10pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN		UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7 last flight on Feb 2	
OZ624/9661	3:30pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN		UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6 last flight on Feb 8	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily

1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Shanghai Composite index plunges 8.7% as market reopens

BANGKOK (AP)—The Shanghai Composite index tumbled 8.7% Monday then rebounded slightly as Chinese regulators moved to stabilize markets reopening from a prolonged national holiday despite a rising death toll from a new virus that has spread to more than 20 countries.

The Shanghai benchmark was trading 8.1% lower by late morning, flummoxed by the outbreak that has prompted governments around the world to step up surveillance and quarantine requirements. Airlines have cancelled hundreds of flights and cities in China have imposed stronger limits on public activities in moves that have led economists to begin downgrading their growth estimates for this year.

Many analysts have dropped their growth estimates for China, the world's second-largest economy, to near 5% from earlier forecasts of 6% growth for the year. With tens of millions of Chinese living in cities ordered to mostly stay home, retailer and tourism-related businesses already are suffering.

The number of people infected by the virus first found in the central Chinese city of Wuhan had risen above 17,000 as of Sunday night, the government said. It has killed more than 360 people, all but one in China.



A shops for tomatoes at a market wearing his mask against the spreading coronavirus in Hong Kong, Monday, Feb. 3, 2020

AP

After nosediving on the open, the Shanghai Composite was down 8.1% at 2,734.66 by midday, steadied by the central bank, which on Sunday announced it was injecting 1.2 trillion yuan (\$173 billion) into the markets to ensure there would be enough cash. The benchmark for China's smaller market, in Shenzhen, was down 8.3%.

"Sentiments remain very fragile as markets dynamically

try to get a sense of when containment will catch up with contagion," Mizuho Bank said in a commentary.

The government said Monday that the number of people infected by the virus had risen above 17,000 as of Sunday night. The virus has killed more than 360 people, all but one in China.

While shares in many sectors fell, prices for some Chinese pharmaceutical compa-

nies hit their 10% upside limit in early trading. Shandong Lukang Pharmaceutical, Jiangsu Sihuan Bioengineering and Harbin Pharmaceutical Group Co. were among the limit-up companies. Major conglomerate New Hope Group plunged to the 10% downside limit, as did Dongfang Electric Co.

China's central bank announced plans Sunday to inject 1.2 trillion yuan (\$173 billion) into the markets to cushion the shock from the outbreak of a

new virus when trading resumed. The Lunar New Year holiday, usually a week long, had been prolonged by three days as a precaution.

The Shanghai Composite fell 2.8% to 2,976.53 on Jan. 23, its last day of trading before the Lunar New Year.

Worries over the potential harm to businesses and trade from the outbreak have triggered wide swings in share prices around the globe. On Wall Street on Friday, the Dow

skidded more than 600 points as the widening pandemic stoked fears that travel restrictions and other uncertainties could dent global growth. The U.S. market, which had calmly been setting record after record, suffered its worst January since 2016 and its first monthly loss since August.

Technology companies, which do a lot of business with China, led the losses. Airlines fell after Delta and American suspended flights to and from China. The sell-off erased the S&P 500's gains for January and gave the benchmark index its biggest weekly loss since August.

China's communist leaders have massive resources for intervening to staunch panic selling of shares and have deployed them in past times of crisis, including the global financial meltdown and the 2002-2003 outbreak of SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome. Most of the country's largest companies and financial institutions are state-controlled.

The central bank statement issued Sunday said its open market operations were aimed at ensuring sufficient liquidity. The People's Bank of China often uses reverse repurchases of securities that it plans to sell back, basically serving as very short-term loans, to increase the amount of money circulating in markets.

Fed chair sees China virus as possible risk to world economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Just as the outlook for the global economy had been brightening in recent months, a new threat has suddenly emerged in the form of the viral outbreak in China.

That was the cautionary message that Chairman Jerome Powell delivered Wednesday after the Federal Reserve held interest rates low after its latest policy meeting.

Speaking at a news conference, Powell said the signing of a preliminary U.S.-China trade deal earlier this month, the resolution of Brexit and continuing low interest rates in the United States and abroad had suggested that the world economy would start to expand more quickly after being held back by trade conflicts. That scenario is now complicated by the emergence of the virus.

Still, Powell noted that the extent of the economic damage that the virus may ultimately inflict, in China or around the world, remains unknown.

"There is likely to be some disruption to activity in China and globally," Powell said.

"It's very uncertain how far it will spread and what the (economic) effects will be in China, for its trading partners, and around the world.... We are very carefully monitoring the situation."

Even so, Powell said he thinks there are "there are signs and reasons to expect" a global economic rebound. And he said the initial U.S.-China trade agreement and a new trade pact among the U.S., Canada and Mexico that President Donald Trump signed into law Wednesday could potentially boost the U.S. economy.

Powell spoke after the Fed had announced that it has kept its key interest rate unchanged in a low range of 1.5% to 1.75%, far below levels that were typical during previous expansions. The chairman and other Fed officials have indicated that they see that range as low enough to support fast growth and hiring.

Investors, however, are increasingly betting that the Fed will feel compelled to cut rates later this year, likely out of concern that the U.S. will

feel the impact of a global slowdown stemming from the coronavirus. The chances of a cut by September's Fed meeting have risen above 70%, according to the Chicago Mercantile Exchange's FedWatch tool, up from roughly 40% just a month ago.

Still, Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist at Capital Economics, said he saw nothing in the Fed's statement or at Powell's news conference to make him change his belief that the central bank will keep its benchmark rate unchanged for the foreseeable future.

"Unless the U.S. experiences its own epidemic, we doubt that the indirect effects from the disruptions in China would be enough to warrant a U.S. rate cut," Ashworth said.

The coronavirus has in effect shut down much of that nation and seems sure to slow the Chinese economy—the world's second-largest—which had already been decelerating. The virus has now infected more people in China than were sickened in the country by the SARS outbreak in 2002-2003.

Record sales push Tesla to 2nd straight quarterly profit

DETROIT (AP)—Record electric vehicle sales in the fourth quarter helped to push Tesla Inc. to its second-straight quarterly profit, giving bullish investors optimism that sustained black ink lies ahead.

The Palo Alto, California, company said it made a \$105 million net profit from October through December, or 56 cents per share, but still posted an annual loss of \$862 million.

The fourth-quarter earnings continued Tesla's meteoric stock appreciation. Shares rose nearly 12% in after-hours trading Wednesday to \$648.50

The company said in its quarterly investor letter that it is starting to ramp up production of the Model Y small SUV in Fremont, California. The Model Y is a key product for Tesla's future because consumers are buying smaller utility vehicles. Deliveries are to start by the end of March.

The Model Y will be able to go up to 315 miles (507 kilometers) per charge, an increase over Tesla's previous estimate of 280 miles (451 kilometers),

according to the letter.

Tesla also expects to "comfortably" exceed production of 500,000 vehicles this year at its factories in Fremont and Shanghai. Model Y production in Shanghai will start in 2021. The company also said it plans to start producing limited numbers of its electric semi truck this year.

On a conference call Wednesday, CEO Elon Musk said Tesla is making progress on a full self-driving feature that he has said will be deployed this year. But the company still has a long way to go before its vehicles can travel without humans taking the wheel.

Last year, Musk said he expected to start converting Teslas to self-driving in 2020 as part of a plan to create a network of robotic taxis to compete against ride-hailing services.

Critics have said Tesla doesn't have the sensors or proper technology to offer fully self-driving vehicles.

The coronavirus outbreak in China could temporarily delay

production at the company's new Shanghai factory, Chief Financial Officer Zachary Kirkhorn said, and that may have a small impact on Tesla's first-quarter profitability.

The company hasn't seen any parts-supply disruptions due to the outbreak but is monitoring the situation, he said. "This is an evolving story."

Musk said demand for the company's angular "Cybertruck" pickup has been high, but gave no numbers. "The demand is just far more than we could reasonably make in the space of three or four years, something like that," he said.

Tesla also said in its investor letter that it's moving ahead with preparations for a factory near Berlin, and the first deliveries from the factory are expected next year.

Tesla expects net profits going forward, with some possible exceptions at times surrounding the launch of new products.

"We continue to believe our business has grown to the point of being self-funding," the letter said.

Nation

11th US case of new virus confirmed in California

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—Officials have confirmed that a central California couple has been sickened with a new virus after the husband traveled to the Chinese city at the center of the outbreak, bringing the number of U.S. cases to 11.

The couple, both 57 years old, have not left their home since the husband returned from China, according to a Sunday announcement from San Benito County Health and Human Services. This was a case of person-to-person transmission, officials said.

A woman in the San Fran-

cisco Bay Area who became ill after returning from a trip to China was the ninth person in the U.S. to test positive for a new virus, health authorities said Sunday. It was the second novel coronavirus case announced in Santa Clara County in the past three days but the two cases are not related, according to the county Public Health Department.

The woman, a visitor to the U.S., had recently traveled to Wuhan, China, the epicenter of the virus. She arrived Jan. 23 to visit family, officials said in a news release.

The patient has stayed at home with family since she arrived, except for two occasions when she sought outpatient medical care. She has been regularly monitored and was never sick enough to be hospitalized, the release said.

The woman's family members have also been isolated at the home. The health department has been bringing them food and other necessities, officials said.

"A second case is not unexpected. With our large population and the amount of travel to China for both per-

sonal and business reasons, we will likely see more cases, including close contacts to our cases," Dr. Sara Cody, the county's health officer, said in a statement.

The first case in the Bay Area was a man who traveled to Wuhan and Shanghai before returning Jan. 24 to California, where he became ill, Cody said Friday.

The man was also never sick enough to be hospitalized and "self-isolated" by staying home, she said.

The man left home twice to seek outpatient care at a local

clinic and a hospital. Public health officials are now trying to reach anyone he may have come into contact with during those times to assess whether they were exposed to the virus.

Those people, along with the few members of his household, will have to undergo a 14-day quarantine.

Health officials believe it can

take up to two weeks for someone who is infected to get sick.

The virus has infected almost 10,000 people worldwide and killed more than 200. The vast majority of the cases and all but one of the deaths have been in China. The first death outside China from the new virus was recorded Sunday in the Philippines.

ACROSS THE NATION

Pregnant woman killed, baby survives in Milwaukee shooting

MILWAUKEE (AP)—A gunman in a passing car fired five or six shots outside of a Milwaukee supper club, killing a pregnant mother of five who was on board a party bus that was parked in front of the venue, authorities said. The bus rushed Annie Sandifer to Ascension St. Joseph hospital after the roughly 2:30 a.m. shooting on Milwaukee's northwest side, but she didn't survive. Doctors were able to deliver her baby via an emergency cesarean section, police said. The baby was in stable condition, but delivered just 26 weeks into the pregnancy, it was born very premature. Police said Sunday that they hadn't arrested anyone yet, and it wasn't clear if the bus was the intended target of the attack. At a Saturday evening vigil, family described Sandifer as a loving, giving mother to her children, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported.

Mormon missionaries being cut in Liberia

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced Sunday it is reducing the number of its missionaries in Liberia because of concerns about having adequate supplies for them due to the country's economic problems. In the next few days, 23 young missionaries who were close to ending their assignments in the West African nation will return home, church spokesman Daniel Woodruff said in a statement. Eight other missionaries who had been preparing to go to Liberia have been temporarily assigned elsewhere. There are adequate supplies for the 99 people who will remain at the Liberia Monrovia Mission, Woodruff said. "The Church will continue to closely monitor the situation and make adjustments as needed. We pray for the people in Liberia as they navigate the economic situation in their country," he said.

Judge refuses to vacate Somali pirate's sentence

NORFOLK, Va. (AP)—A federal judge in Virginia has refused to vacate the life sentence handed down to a Somali man convicted in a 2010 attack on a U.S. Navy vessel off the coast of Africa. A judge in Norfolk issued a ruling Friday rejecting Mohamed Abdi Jama's claim that his sentence should be overturned because his lawyer was ineffective. Jama was sentenced to life in prison in 2016 for piracy. He filed a motion last year claiming ineffective assistance of counsel. Jama claimed his lawyer failed to understand the laws and fact needed to prove piracy and failed to argue jurisdictional and other law regarding piracy offenses and territory. He also argued that his lawyer failed to advise him of plea deals and failed to negotiate or explain any plea offers. The judge said the court record provides no support for Jama's claims and shows that his lawyer shared a plea offer by prosecutors of 25 years in prison. Jama's lawyer said in an affidavit that his client refused to cooperate.

Appeal of man who shot Army recruiters in Arkansas rejected

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—The Arkansas Supreme Court has rejected the appeal of a man who fatally shot a U.S. Army soldier and wounded another outside a recruiting station in Little Rock. The ruling dated Thursday and first reported by the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette said Abdulhakim Muhammad's appeal is without merit. Muhammad, 34, was sentenced to life without parole after pleading guilty to the 2009 fatal shooting of Pvt. William Long of Conway and wounding of Pvt. Quinton Ezeagwula of Jacksonville outside the Little Rock Army-Navy Career Center. In an interview with The Associated Press shortly after his arrest, Muhammad, who changed his name from Carlos Bledsoe, said he didn't consider the killing a murder because U.S. military action in the Middle East made the killing justified.



PREDICTION: EARLY SPRING

Groundhog Club co-handler Al Dereume holds Punxsutawney Phil, the weather prognosticating groundhog, during the 134th celebration of Groundhog Day on Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pa. Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020. Pennsylvania's most famous groundhog on Sunday declared: "Spring will be early, it's a certainty." At sunrise on Groundhog Day, members of Punxsutawney Phil's top hat-wearing inner circle revealed the cuddly oracle's prediction—his 134th, according to the Pennsylvania Tourism Office.

AP

Man arrested in al-Qaida killings ran Arizona driving school

PHOENIX (AP)—A man that federal authorities say was a leader of al-Qaida in Iraq and is suspected in the killing of two in Fallujah 14 years ago ran an Arizona driving school and was described by friends and acquaintances in Phoenix as an outgoing, friendly member of the city's Iraqi community.

The Arizona Republic reported Sunday that 42-year-old Ali Yousif Ahmed Al-Nouri had been in the U.S. for more than a decade and had recently married and had a child.

The Department of Justice said Friday that Ahmed appeared before a magistrate judge that day for proceedings to extradite him to Iraq, where

the government has charged him with two counts of murder. It wasn't immediately known if he had a lawyer who could speak on his behalf.

Ahmed and other members of al-Qaida shot and killed a lieutenant and an officer with the Fallujah Police Directorate in 2006, according to the Department of Justice. A warrant was issued for his arrest on Wednesday.

Jabir Algarawi, a board member of the Phoenix refugee assistance organization Refugees and Immigrants Community for Empowerment, said he met Ahmed in 2010 and knew him well.

He said the man arrived in the U.S. in January 2008 as a refugee from Iraq.

"He said he had 20 bullets in his body," Algawari said. "He said he had been shot 20 times in the face and arms and legs."

Algawari said he was "very shocked" to hear Ahmed had been accused of the killings of the officers in Iraq. He said the man did not show any signs of being an extremist.

"He's not religious," Algarawi said. "He was always out partying, drinking. He does not seem to me to be a person with an extremist background."

He said Ahmed had recently married and had a baby weeks ago. Arizona business records show he opened his driving school in 2016. The school, which advertised in English and Arabic, was shuttered on Satur-

day after his arrest.

Erkan Alkledar, an Iraqi refugee who owns an immigration services business next to Ahmed's driving school, said he was stunned to hear the allegations but said he did not trust the man over a past business dispute.

Omar Muhialdin, the owner of a nearby Middle Eastern restaurant where Ahmed was a regular customer, said he too had heard Ahmed describe having been shot multiple times in Iraq. He said it was hard to believe Iraqi and U.S. government allegations that Ahmed belonged to an extremist terrorist group.

"Ali drinks a lot. Ali likes to dance. He's not religious," Muhialdin said.

Asia

China finishes new HOSPITAL FOR VIRUS PATIENTS as toll grows

The Huoshenshan temporary field hospital under construction is seen as it nears completion in Wuhan in central China's Hubei Province, Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020. Inset, a Chinese army medic looks at a patient room at the Huoshenshan temporary field hospital in Wuhan in central China's Hubei Province, Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020.

AP

BEIJING (AP)—China sent medical workers and equipment Monday to its just-completed 1,000-bed hospital for treating victims of a new virus that has caused 362 deaths and more than 17,300 infections at home and abroad.

Reopening of schools was also delayed to keep the virus from spreading further in hard-hit central Hubei province, where the specialized hospital in the provincial capital Wuhan was completed in just 10 days. A second hospital with 1,500 beds is under construction. Restrictions were tightened still further in one city by allowing only one family member to venture out to buy supplies every other day.

Medical teams from the People's Liberation Army continued to arrive in Wuhan to relieve the city's over-

whelmed health workers and to work at the new hospital, located in the countryside far from the city center. Footage shown by state broadcaster CCTV showed prefabricated wards equipped with state-of-the-art medical equipment and ventilation systems.

Leading Chinese epidemiologist Zhong Nanshan said additional hospital space was crucial to stopping the spread of new infections.

"The lack of hospital rooms forced sick people to return home, which is extremely dangerous. So having additional (beds) available is a great improvement," Zhong told CCTV's 24-hour news channel.

Zhong played a major role in overcoming China's 2002-2003 outbreak of SARS, a coronavirus from the same

family as the current pathogen.

In a sign of the economic toll of the outbreak, China's Shanghai Composite index plunged 8.7% as financial markets reopened Monday following the Lunar New Year holiday.

China's new totals of 361 deaths and 2,829 new cases over the last 24 hours, bringing the Chinese total to 17,205 cases, come as other countries continued evacuating hundreds of their citizens from Hubei and imposed travel restrictions affecting Chinese or people who recently traveled in the country.

The World Health Organization said the number of confirmed cases will keep growing because thousands of specimens from suspected cases have yet to be tested.

The Philippines banned the

entry of all non-citizens from China after two cases were confirmed there, including the only death outside China. The U.S., Japan, Singapore, Indonesia, New Zealand and Australia have imposed similar restrictions despite criticism from China and WHO's guidance that such measures were unnecessary.

About 150 cases have been reported in two dozen other countries. The Philippine Health Department said a 44-year-old Chinese man from Wuhan died from the virus and his companion remained hospitalized. Vietnam counted its seventh case, a Vietnamese American man who had a two-hour layover in Wuhan on his way from the U.S. to Ho Chi Minh City.

The U.S. total rose to 11 cases, mostly involving recent

travel to Wuhan.

Also, six officials in the city of Huanggang, next to Wuhan in Hubei province, were fired over "poor performance" in handling the outbreak, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. It cited the mayor as saying the city's "capabilities to treat the patients remained inadequate and there is a severe shortage in medical supplies such as protective suits and medical masks."

The trading and manufacturing center of Wenzhou, with nearly 10 million people in coastal Zhejiang province, confined people to their homes, allowing only one family member to venture out every other day to buy necessary supplies. Huanggang, home to 7 million people, imposed similar measures on Saturday.

With no end in sight to the outbreak, authorities in Hubei and elsewhere extended the Lunar New Year holiday break, due to end this week, well into February to try to keep people at home and reduce the spread of the virus. All Hubei schools are postponing the start of the new semester until further notice.

The crisis is the latest to confront Chinese leader Xi Jinping, who has been beset by months of anti-government protests in Hong Kong, the reelection of Taiwan's pro-independence president and criticism over human rights violations in the traditionally Muslim territory of Xinjiang. Meanwhile, the domestic economy continues to slow, weighed down by slowing demand and the trade war with Washington.

China's virus hospital takes 1st patients

BEIJING (AP)—The first patients arrived Monday at a specialized hospital built in just 10 days as part of China's intensive efforts to fight a new virus.

Huoshenshan Hospital and a second facility with 1,500 beds that's due to open this week were built by construction crews who are working around the clock in Wuhan, the city in central China where the outbreak was first detected in December. Most of the city's 11 million people are

barred from leaving the area.

The Wuhan treatment centers mark the second time Chinese leaders have responded to a new disease by building specialized hospitals almost overnight. As severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, spread in 2003, a facility in Beijing for patients with that viral disease was constructed in a week.

The first patients arrived at the Huoshenshan Hospital at 10 a.m. on Monday, according to state media. The reports gave no details of the patients'

identities or conditions.

The ruling Communist Party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army, sent 1,400 doctors, nurses and other personnel to staff the Wuhan hospital, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The government said earlier some have experience fighting SARS and other outbreaks.

Authorities have cut most road, rail and air access to Wuhan and surrounding cities, isolating some 50 million people, in efforts to

contain the viral outbreak that has sickened more than 17,000 and killed more than 360 people.

The Huoshenshan Hospital was built by a 7,000-member crew of carpenters, plumbers, electricians and other specialists, according to the Xinhua News Agency. Photos in state media showed workers in winter clothing, safety helmets and the surgical-style masks worn by millions of Chinese in an attempt to avoid contracting the virus.

About half of the two-story, 60,000-square-meter (600,000-square-foot) build-

ing is isolation wards, according to the government newspaper Yangtze Daily. It has 30 intensive care units.

Doctors can talk with outside experts over a video system that links them to Beijing's PLA General Hospital, according to the Yangtze Daily. It said the system was installed in less than 12 hours by a 20-member "commando team" from Wuhan Telecom Ltd.

The building has specialized ventilation systems and double-sided cabinets that connect patient rooms to hallways and allow hospital staff to deliver supplies without en-

tering the rooms.

The hospital received a donation of "medical robots" from a Chinese company for use in delivering medicines and carrying test samples, according to the Shanghai newspaper The Paper.

In other cities, the government has designated hospitals to handle cases of the new virus.

In Beijing, the Xiaotangshan Hospital built in 2003 for SARS is being renovated by construction workers. The government has yet to say whether it might be used for patients with the new disease.

World

Man wearing fake bomb stabs 2 in London and is shot to death

LONDON (AP)—A man recently released from prison after serving time for terrorism-related offenses strapped on a fake bomb and stabbed two people on a busy London street Sunday before being shot to death by police, officials said.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lucy D'Orsi said police identified the attacker as 20-year-old Sudesh Amman. He had been convicted for publishing graphic terrorist videos online and had stockpiled instructions on bomb making and knife attacks, according to police.

Officers had been trailing Amman at the time of Sunday's attack, D'Orsi said, but were unable to head off the bloodshed in the commercial and residential south London neighborhood of Streatham, where Amman struck outside a major pharmacy on a busy shopping afternoon.

The incident in London recalled a November stabbing attack carried out by another man who had served prison time for terrorism offense. Two were killed in that attack.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said measures will be



Police attend the scene after an incident in Streatham, London, Sunday Feb. 2, 2020. London police say officers shot a man during a "terrorism-related incident" that involved the stabbings of "a number of people."

introduced Monday to bring "fundamental" change to the way people convicted of terrorism offenses are handled in prison and afterward.

"The suspect had been recently released from prison where he had been serving a sentence for Islamist-related

terrorism offences," D'Orsi said of Sunday's attacker.

It seems likely the victims will survive Sunday's attack. D'Orsi said a stabbing victim in his 40s thought to be in life-threatening condition has improved. She said the victim is no longer in danger and that a

woman who had been hospitalized has been released.

One other female victim is still in the hospital with lesser injuries police believe were caused by flying glass after the attacker was shot dead.

D'Orsi said the incident started at 2 p.m. "Armed of-

ficers, who were part of a proactive counterterrorism operation and were following the suspect on foot, were in immediate attendance and shot a male suspect dead at the scene," she said.

She said police saw a device strapped to the attacker's body and called in specialist officers who quickly determined the purported explosive device was a hoax.

Officials praised the police action but questions are likely to be raised about why the officers trailing Amman could not prevent his attack.

Video from the scene appeared to show three undercover police officers in an unmarked car making a quick stop just after the attack.

Bell Reberio-Addy, a member of Parliament who represents Streatham, said the attacker had been under surveillance "for some time."

D'Orsi said there was no "continuing danger" to the public, but the area remained cordoned off as the investigation continued. The usually busy area was deserted as the public heeded police requests



Amman

to stay away.

The drama about 5 miles (8 kilometers) south of central London marked a departure from recent terror attacks in the British capital that took place near landmarks such as Lon-

don Bridge and the Houses of Parliament.

The attack caused chaos and panic on what had been a typical Sunday afternoon, with the streets filled with shoppers.

Karker Tahir said he was at work when he saw police chasing a man down Streatham High Road, the area's main shopping district.

"They kept telling him, 'Stop! Stop!'" Tahir said. "But he didn't stop, and then I saw that they shot him three times. It was horrible seeing it. The man was on the floor and it looked like he had something, which police said may be a device. Police came to us and said, 'You have to leave the shop because he has a bomb in his bag.'"

20 dead in stampede at Tanzania church service

DODOMA, Tanzania (AP)—Twenty people have died and a dozen others were injured in a stampede during a church meeting in the northern Tanzanian city of Moshi, the government said Sunday.

The stampede was caused by church faithful being ushered to pass through one exit at the meeting venue so they could walk on "anointed oil," according to a statement by a government spokesman.

Hundreds of worshippers attended the prayer meeting Saturday led by Boniface Mwamposa, a popular preacher who heads the Arise and Shine Ministry Tanzania.

Tanzania's Interior Minister George Simbachawene said Mwamposa had been arrested. Simbachawene said the government will review the associations act, with the intention of strengthening the requirements to register as a church.

He accused the church of not taking enough precautions and violating the terms of its permit for the meeting, which ran two hours later than planned.

Europeans flee China, France urges help for poor nations

A second French-chartered airliner carrying 300 evacuees from China flew to Europe on Sunday as more foreigners fled the rapidly spreading new virus.

The wide-body Airbus A380 landed at a military base in southern France with passengers who included citizens of France, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Czech Republic and some African countries.

French Health Minister Agnes Buzyn said 36 people exhibited potential symptoms of the coronavirus. Sixteen of them were sent home to other

European countries, while the other 20 stayed in France and are being tested.

Those who test positive for the virus will be hospitalized, and the others will be quarantined for 14 days, Buzyn told reporters. Passengers from the first airlift from China organized by the French government are in isolation at a Mediterranean resort in the town of Carry-le-Rouet.

As of Sunday night, Europe had 25 known cases of people who have been infected with the virus that first emerged in central China's city of Wuhan: Ger-

many has 10; France has six; Russia, Italy and the U.K. have two each and Finland, Sweden and Spain each have one.

Two people flown back to Germany were found to be infected with the virus, German Health Minister Jens Spahn said. That brought the total of cases in Germany to 10.

Spahn said the two were symptom-free both when they left Wuhan and when they arrived in Frankfurt with 126 others on Saturday afternoon. They were "doing well at the moment" in quarantine at a Frankfurt hospital Sunday, the minister said.

Of those infected in France, Buzyn said a person who had been in intensive care had moved into a regular hospital room. Another person remains in intensive care in France, an 80-year-old Chinese tourist.

Buzyn supported calls for more international cooperation via the G-7 group of industrialized countries and the EU.

"We favor anything that would allow better international coordination, a better exchange of information," Buzyn said. "All industrialized countries who have more robust health care and health alert systems

should be able to cooperate, and to help other countries and perhaps on other continents that may have more difficulties."

Italian officials said Sunday that an air force plane had set out for Wuhan to bring home 67 Italian nationals. The plane is expected to land at a military airport near Rome on Monday morning. Foreign Ministry officials said the plane was also bringing medical supplies to Wuhan, at China's request.

The ministry also said permission had been given for cargo flights to fly between Italy and China.

Spray planes combat the huge locust outbreak in East Africa

NASULU CONSERVANCY, Kenya (AP)—As locusts by the billions—yes, billions—descend on parts of Kenya in the worst outbreak in 70 years, small planes are flying low over affected areas to spray pesticides in what experts call the only effective control.

It is challenging work, especially in remote areas where mobile phone signals are absent and ground crews cannot quickly communicate coordinates to flight teams.

The ground crews are in "the most woeful terrains," Marcus Dunn, a pilot and the director at Farmland Aviation,

said Saturday. "If there is no network, then the fellow on a boda boda (motorcycle), he has to rush off now and go and get a network."

Just five planes are currently spraying as Kenyan and other authorities try to stop the locusts from spreading to neighboring Uganda and South Sudan. The United Nations has said \$76 million is needed immediately to widen such efforts across East Africa.

A fast response is crucial. Experts warn that if left unchecked, the number of locusts could grow by 500 times by June, when drier weather will help bring the outbreak

under control.

The finger-length locusts swept into Kenya from Somalia and Ethiopia after unusually heavy rains in recent months, decimating crops in some areas and threatening millions of vulnerable people with a hunger crisis.

Somalia's agriculture ministry on Sunday called the outbreak a national emergency and major threat to the country's fragile food security, saying the "uncommonly large" locust swarms are consuming huge amounts of crops.

In swarms the size of major cities, the locusts also have affected parts of Sudan, Djibouti

and Eritrea, whose agriculture ministry says both the military and general public have been deployed to combat them.

Kenya's agriculture minister has acknowledged that authorities weren't prepared for the scope of the infestation this year. That's not surprising, considering it's been decades since the country's last comparable outbreak, U.N. officials say.

The locusts also are heading toward the breadbasket of Ethiopia, Africa's second-most populous country, in that nation's worst outbreak in 25 years. On Thursday, startled residents of Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, started reported

sightings of the insects.

"I was surprised to find the locusts inside my living room," said one resident, Mathewos Girma, showing a photo on his mobile phone. "It appears it is knocking on each and every one of our doors."

Zebdewos Selato, an agriculture ministry official, told The Associated Press the relatively few locusts reaching Ethiopia's capital are "leftovers" from the "massive invasion" in the eastern and southern parts of the country. Spraying is being conducted around the city to stop the outbreak from spreading elsewhere, he said.

Focus

A historic end to a frenetic week



AP
In this Feb. 5, 2019, file photo, President Donald Trump delivers his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, as Vice President Mike Pence and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., watch.

By HOPE YEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump's impeachment trial heads toward a historic conclusion this week, with senators all-but-certain to acquit him on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress after narrowly rejecting Democratic demands to summon witnesses.

There's still plenty of drama to unfold before Wednesday's vote.

The vote is expected to cap a months-long investigation spurred by a whistleblower complaint that Trump improperly withheld U.S. military aid from Ukraine in a bid to pressure it to launch investigations into 2020 Democratic rival Joe Biden.

In the Senate, Republicans hold a 53-47 advantage and there's nowhere near the two-thirds needed for conviction and removal. On Friday, Republicans blocked consideration of new witnesses and documents, setting up the speedy acquittal vote for the coming week.

It will be a frenetic next few days.

On Monday, House impeachment managers and Trump's defense team return to the Senate floor to make closing arguments in the trial, the same day the 2020 presidential election kicks off with the first

votes cast in the Iowa caucuses.

On Tuesday, Trump will deliver his State of the Union address.

Will some Democratic senators join Republicans to acquit Trump, allowing him to claim a bipartisan "exoneration"? Will Trump gloat or express any regret over the Ukraine matter after key GOP senators during the trial criticized his actions as improper, but ultimately not impeachable? Will Wednesday's Senate vote be the final say in the matter?

What to watch as the third impeachment trial in U.S. history heads to a close:

CLOSING ARGUMENTS

The trial resumes at 11 a.m. EST Monday for closing arguments by the two legal teams, with each side getting two hours. After the arguments, the Senate goes back into normal session to allow lawmakers to give speeches about impeachment on the floor from late Monday into Wednesday, before they reconvene as the impeachment court at 4 p.m. Wednesday and vote.

With Trump's acquittal all but assured, one of the biggest questions may be whether any Democrats join with Republicans to clear him of charges. There is strong political significance.

Three Democratic senators hailing from states where Trump remains popular—

Doug Jones of Alabama, Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona—remained quiet over the week-end about their intentions.

They were among the 47 Democratic and independent senators who voted unsuccessfully to extend Trump's trial by summoning additional witnesses.

If one or more of the Democratic senators votes to acquit Trump—even voting against one article of impeachment while supporting the other—it could alienate some Democratic voters, mark their legacies and let Trump spend his reelection campaign asserting that he was cleared by a bipartisan vote.

Manchin indicated to reporters Friday he probably won't decide his vote "until walking in" to the chamber on Wednesday.

Jones has said he will announce his decision prior to Wednesday's vote, making sure he gets it "right." Sinema hasn't indicated when she will signal her intentions.

WHAT WILL TRUMP SAY?

Trump gives his State of the Union address on Tuesday night, and with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., perched behind him during his prime-time address, the White House has been coy as to whether Trump will reference

the impeachment trial.

Trump "is gratified the Senate will set a schedule for his acquittal as quickly as possible. We do not believe that schedule interferes with his ability to deliver a strong, confident State of the Union," White House aide Eric Ueland said Friday.

A year ago, Trump made no direct reference to his shutdown of government spurred by a dispute with Democrats over border wall funding in the speech he eventually delivered to Congress. He used his address to call for a "new era of cooperation."

Still, there were plenty of subtle digs at the time, including when Trump warned those gathered against pursuing "foolish wars, politics, or ridiculous partisan investigations."

THE FINAL VOTE

It's similarly unclear whether Trump could express regret or remorse over his Ukraine actions, though senators aren't holding their breath.

The vote to convict or acquit Trump is scheduled for 4 p.m. EST Wednesday.

Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee was among several Republicans last Friday who voted to block additional witnesses and draw the trial to a close, even though he and others described Trump's actions as "inappropriate" and

"wrong." Asked Sunday if he would want to hear Trump express regret, as President Bill Clinton did after his impeachment trial, Alexander said he doesn't need to hear it.

"What I hope he would do is when he makes his State of the Union address, that he puts this completely behind him, never mentions it, and talks about what he thinks he's done for the country and where we're headed," Alexander told NBC's "Meet the Press."

Alexander and other Republicans said that even if Trump committed offenses charged by the House, they are not impeachable—especially in an election year. They say voters should make that determination in November.

That leaves Trump's fate still hanging in the balance.

A NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll released Sunday found majorities of American voters believe that Trump abused his power and obstructed Congress, but split largely among party lines over whether he should be removed from office.

The poll, conducted Jan. 26-29, found 46% of registered voters believed Trump should be removed from office as a result of the trial, vs. 49% who said he should remain—basically unchanged from a 48-48 split in December.

NOT OVER YET?

An acquittal for Trump on Wednesday wouldn't mean the end of the Ukraine matter in other respects.

Both Pelosi and Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff, the lead impeachment manager, haven't ruled out the possibility of compelling former national security adviser John Bolton to testify in the House should Trump be acquitted.

In an unpublished manuscript, Bolton has written that the president asked him during an Oval Office meeting in early May to bolster his effort to get Ukraine to investigate Democrats, according to a person who read the passage and told The Associated Press; Trump denies that. Bolton also wrote that Trump said he wanted to maintain a freeze on military assistance to Ukraine until it aided the political investigations. His book is due out in March. Senators ultimately voted against hearing his testimony.

"This is in the Senate now," Pelosi told reporters last week. "We'll see what happens after that."

Republicans, for their part, aren't pledging to fully close the case, either. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, said he planned to call Joe Biden as part of the congressional oversight process into possible corruption in Ukraine.

Overdrive

2020 TOYOTA COROLLA HYBRID

Exceptional **fuel efficiency**
without the
oddball styling



The 2020 Toyota Corolla Hybrid. TOYOTA/TNS

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Did you know that a corolla is “the ring of petals around the central part of a flower?” And here I thought it was a ubiquitous four-door compact car. But, of course, it’s both. It just depends on whether you capitalize the word or not.

Yet the Corolla with the capital C is the bestselling nameplate in the world, with more than 46 million copies sold since 1966. Redesigned last year using Toyota’s New Global Architecture that’s employed for the Camry and RAV4, the Corolla is offered in comfort-oriented L, LE, and XLE grades with a 139-horsepower 1.8-liter engine from the previous-generation Corolla, or in sportier SE and XSE trim with a more powerful 169-horsepower 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine.

But now there’s a third option: the first-ever Corolla Hybrid, powered by a 1.8-liter four-cylinder gas engine and a 53kW electric motor mated to the continuously variable automatic transmission that generates 121 horsepower and returns EPA-rated fuel economy of 52 mpg

in combined city/highway driving. That’s far more efficient than the 31-34 mpg seen in other Corollas.

But the Corolla Hybrid’s real competition comes from the Prius, which starts at \$24,325, \$1,225 more than the Corolla Hybrid’s \$23,100 base price. Considering they both use the same drivetrain, and the Prius returns fuel economy between 50 and 54 mpg depending on model, the Corolla holds an advantage over the Prius because it lacks Prius’ peculiar alien spacecraft styling. The Corolla Hybrid is far more visually appealing, with its lower, leaner look accentuated by gently flared fenders and capped with LED headlamps. Its clean, energetic edge is far easier to live with and, unlike the Prius, doesn’t constantly remind you of its hybrid nature. It’s for drivers who are secure enough to not shout their environmental credibility to the world; it’s not a defining part of their identity.

Toyota was nice enough to send

a Prius along for comparison, but it was actually the Prius Prime Plug-In Hybrid, meaning fuel economy

surpassed that of the Corolla by a considerable margin, as did its \$28,705 starting price, a \$5,605 premium.

Looks aside, the two had differences that favor the Corolla.

While both seat five, the Corolla boasts a far more useable trunk, the cargo area, resulting in a very shallow trunk that goes far forward. Consider it the ultimate cargo hold for transporting pizza or yoga mats.

Next comes the driveline. The Prius Prime delivers 25 miles of pure electric driving, and is rated at the equivalent of 103 mpg. But when it reverts to standard hybrid mode, it returns 54 mpg, close to that of the Corolla Hybrid. According to the EPA, you’ll spend 20% less fueling the Prius Prime — \$600, rather than \$750 — but given the Prime’s price premium, the Corolla comes out ahead in affordability. In addition,

the Prius Prime feels ethereal in its responses, delivering performance without a scintilla of feel or emotion. Its otherworldly aura is augmented by the bizarre styling.

Thankfully, the Corolla Hybrid feels and acts like its conventional siblings, although it’s livelier off-the-line thanks to the electric motors’ added punch. Toyota equips the Corolla Hybrid with Eco, Normal and Sport driving modes, although there seems to be little difference between Normal and Sport. Eco is only for those with a death wish; this car’s acceleration is leisurely enough. Although it’s far from the fastest compact, it is among the most fuel-efficient. A weeklong test drive returned 49 mpg despite a heavy right foot. Like other Corollas, a MacPherson strut front suspension, multilink rear suspension and a pair of stabilizer bars minimizes body roll while returning a fairly comfortable ride, although it seems more abrupt over rough stuff than its siblings, possibly because of its added weight.

Safety features include a pre-collision system, dynamic radar cruise control, lane departure alert with steering assist, lane tracing assist, automatic high beams, road sign assist, eight airbags, vehicle stability control, traction control, electronic brake-force distribution, brake as-

sist, anti-lock braking system and a backup camera.

The interior is basically that of a Corolla LE, although that’s not as bad as it sounds. The front passengers sit low, with a short but supportive front seat cushion. Head and legroom are good up front. Back seat legroom is adequate, but headroom is tight due to an encroaching sunroof, so try before you buy.

An 8-inch infotainment touchscreen anchors the center of the instrument panel, residing above a simple row of climate control buttons bookended by rotary knobs. Uniquely, the center console and instrument panel don’t physically connect, imparting a feeling of spaciousness. Tech goodies include a 4G LTE Wi-Fi hotspot, Apple CarPlay, Amazon Alexa, Scout GPS compatibility, auxiliary audio jack, USB port, AM/FM/MP3, Bluetooth, a customizable home screen and weather/traffic info.

All this goodness results in an automotive flower that is more a daisy than an orchid.

The 2020 Corolla Hybrid’s fuel efficiency, sensible size, impressive suite of safety features, and reasonable price make it the compelling commuting device, a transportation butler of the first order.

It’s no flower, but it’s a heck of a Corolla.

NUTS & BOLTS

2020 Toyota Corolla Hybrid

- **Base price:** \$23,100
- **Engine:** 1.8-liter Atkinson-Cycle four-cylinder
- **Battery pack:** Nickel-metal hydride
- **Net horsepower:** 121
- **EPA fuel economy (city/highway):** 53/52 mpg
- **Fuel required:** Regular
- **Wheelbase/Length/Width:** 106.3/182.3/70.1 inches
- **Ground clearance:** 5.1 inches
- **Cargo capacity:** 13.1 cubic feet
- **Curb weight:** 3,050 pounds

Life & Style

Best picture '1917' is big winner at British Academy Awards

LONDON (AP)—Gut-wrenching World War I epic “1917” was the big winner at Sunday’s British Academy Film Awards, winning seven prizes including best picture and best director.

Sam Mendes’ drama about one of the most devastating conflicts in British history bested hotly tipped American contenders including “Joker,” “The Irishman” and “Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood” at a glitzy London event that was overshadowed by criticism of the nomi-

nees’ lack of diversity—even from some of the nominees themselves.

Mendes based “1917” on his grandfather’s wartime experiences. Shot in sinuous long takes that immerse viewers in the action, it follows two British soldiers on a perilous mission across No Man’s Land to try to avert a suicidal offensive.

“1917” was also named best British film and won the cinematography prize—Roger Deakins’ fifth win in that category. It also took trophies for production design, sound and visual effects.

Joaquin Phoenix was named best actor for superhero story “Joker,” which charts the origins of Batman’s ginning nemesis. Renee Zellweger won the best actress prize for the Judy Garland biopic “Judy.”

“Joker” took three awards—best actor, casting and score—from 11 nominations. Martin Scorsese’s mob drama “The Irishman” had 10 nominations but went home empty-handed.

Victory at the British awards, known as BAFTAs,

is often a good predictor of success at Hollywood’s Academy Awards, being held this year on Feb. 9. Like the Oscars, the British awards have struggled to become less male and white.

No women were nominated as best director for the seventh year running, and all 20 nominees in the lead and supporting performer categories were white.

Phoenix slammed the lack of diversity in his acceptance speech, saying it sent “a very clear message to people of color that ‘You’re not wel-

come here.’”

Awards organizers called it “disappointing” that there were no performers of color among the acting nominees, who are chosen by 6,500 academy members who work in the U.K. and international film industry.

The rising star award -- the one trophy decided by the public -- went to black British actor Micheal Ward.

British star Cynthia Erivo, who is Oscar-nominated for her performance as abolitionist Harriet Tubman in “Harriet” but was snubbed by Britain’s Academy, declined an invitation to perform at Sunday’s award ceremony in protest.

The British Academy has promised to review its voting procedures.

BAFTA chairwoman Pippa Harris said the problem was “an industry-wide issue.”

“It takes everyone to look at what they’re doing,” she said. “Awards are right at the end of a whole process, and so we need to look at the types of films being made, the op-

portunities that people are getting, how the films are being promoted. All of these things play a part.”

Presenting the best-director award, Australian actress Rebel Wilson quipped that she could never achieve what the nominees did: “I just don’t have the balls.”

Scarlett Johansson, a best-actress nominee for “Marriage Story,” said the lack of recog-

nition for female directors was disappointing.

“So many women made great films this year,” she said. “And I think it just goes to show you that there is a systemic problem that is very prevalent.”

Hours before the event and several miles away, three people were wounded and a knifeman shot dead by police in what police called a terrorism-related attack. The BBC

canceled plans to broadcast interviews from the red carpet on its news channel as a result.

Brad Pitt was named best supporting actor for “Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood,” Quentin Tarantino’s bloody fairy tale of 1960s Los Angeles.

He didn’t attend, but sent a jokey acceptance speech, read out by his co-star Margot Robbie

“Hey Britain - heard you just became single. Welcome to the club,” he said—one of several references during the ceremony to the U.K.’s exit from the European Union, which became official on Friday.

Pitt also referenced recent tumult in Britain’s royal family, saying he was going to name the trophy Harry, “because he’s really excited about bringing it back to the States with him.”

WINNERS’ LIST

- | | |
|--|---|
| ■ Film: “1917” | ■ Language: “Parasite” |
| ■ British Film: “1917” | ■ Original Score: Hildur Guðnadóttir, “Joker” |
| ■ Director: Sam Mendes, “1917” | ■ Editing: “Le Mans ‘66” |
| ■ Actor: Joaquin Phoenix, “Joker” | ■ Production Design: “1917” |
| ■ Actress: Renee Zellweger, “Judy” | ■ Casting: “Joker” |
| ■ Supporting Actor: Brad Pitt, “Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood” | ■ Costume Design: “Little Women” |
| ■ Supporting Actress: Laura Dern, “Marriage Story” | ■ Sound: “1917” |
| ■ Rising Star: Micheal Ward | ■ Visual Effects: “1917” |
| ■ British Debut: Writer/director Mark Jenkin, producers Kate Byers and Linn Waite, “Bait” | ■ Makeup and Hair: “Bombshell” |
| ■ Cinematography: Roger Deakins, “1917” | ■ Animated Film: “Klaus” |
| ■ Original Screenplay: “Parasite” | ■ British Short Film: “Learning to Skateboard in a Warzone (If You’re a Girl)” |
| ■ Adapted Screenplay: “Jojo Rabbit” | ■ British Short Animation: “Grandad Was a Romantic” |
| ■ Film Not in the English | ■ Documentary: “For Sama” |
| | ■ Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema: Andy Serkis |
| | ■ Academy Fellowship: Kathleen Kennedy |

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Victory at the British awards, known as BAFTAs,

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Dolores Manibusan Cabrera Leon Guerrero

Lovingly Known As ‘Doe, Panko 10’

In her new life, she now joins her:

Father: †Antonio Sablan Cabrera
Mother: †Sylvia Pangelinan Manibusan Cabrera

Brothers & Sisters:
 †Antonia M. Cabrera
 †Lourdes C. Deleon Guerrero
 †Vicente M. Cabrera
 †Nicolasa M. Cabrera
 †Jose M. Cabrera
 †Daniel S. Celis

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Husband: Charlie Duenas Leon Guerrero
Children: Sylvia Yoko ‘Viayo’ C. Leon Guerrero
 RosReeAnn Chloe C. Leon Guerrero
 Charla Dolores C. Leon Guerrero/Patrick P. Fitial

Granddaughter: Aaliyah Jade Leon Guerrero Fitial

Brothers & Sisters:
 †Antonia Cabrera & Family
 Edward Deleon Guerrero & Family
 Aida D. Cabrera & Family
 †Nicolasa Cabrera & Family
 Ana C. Celis (†Daniel)/Diego Kaipat & Family
 Ramon Cabrera & Family
 Margarita S. Cabrera & Family
 Lillian/Lorenzo Leon Guerrero & Family
 Donna E./Diego Cabrera & Family

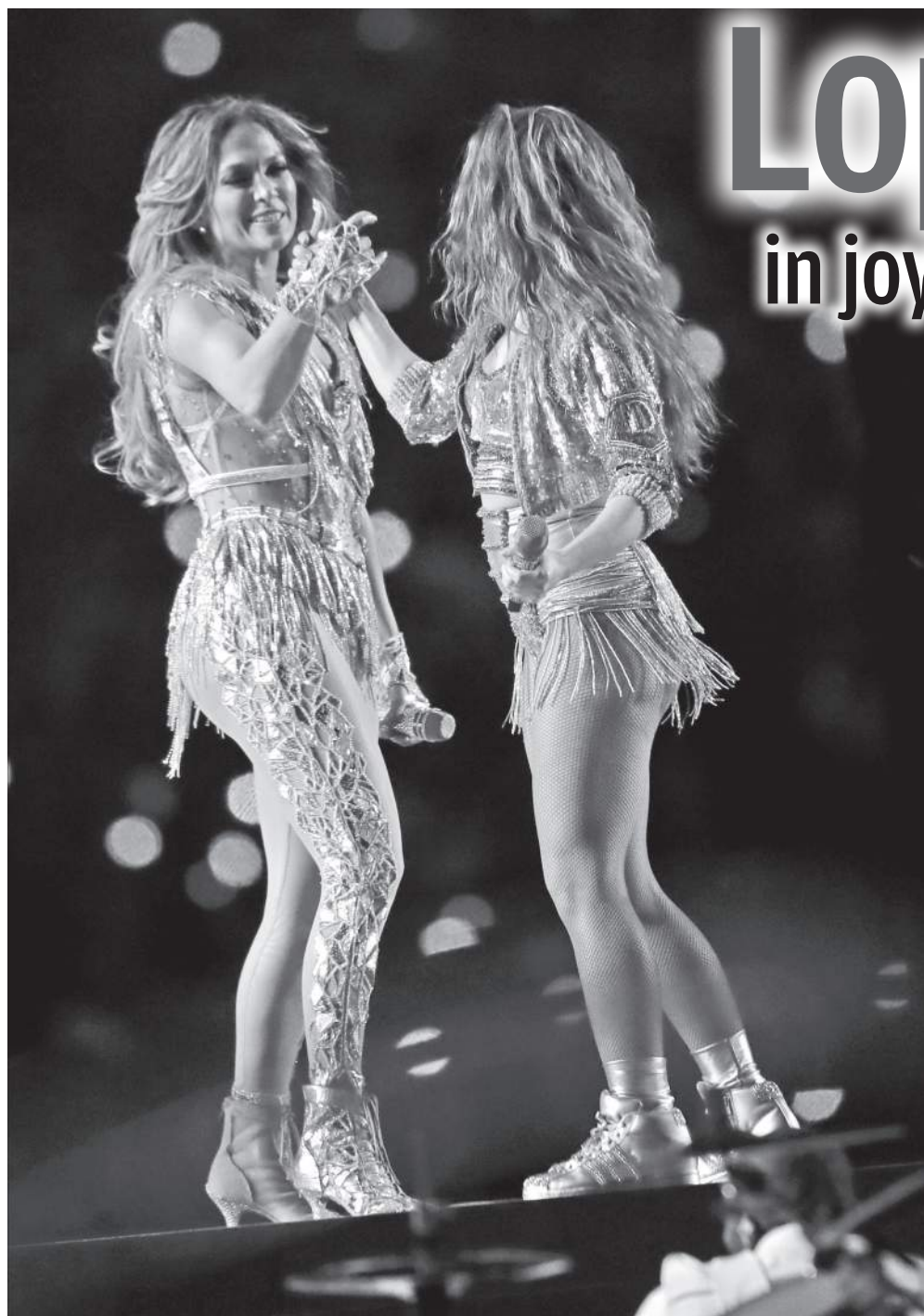
Mother In Law: Ines ‘Yoko’ Cruz Duenas

Brothers & Sisters In Law:
 Nicolas/Jacqueline Leon Guerrero & Family
 Lillian C. Leon Guerrero & Family
 Christopher/Frances Leon Guerrero & Family
 Velma Aldan & Family
 Rita/Vicente Santos & Family
 †Joseph/Lucretia Aldan & Family
 James/Rufina Aldan & Family
 Antonette/Troy Palacios & Family
 Sean Aldan & Family
 Sophia Aldan/Petros Taisague & Family
 Veronica Aldan/Joseph Ojeda & Family

Funeral Services will be held on Friday, February 07, 2020.
 Our beloved †Dolores will lie in state at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 9:00 AM.
 Responso Service will take place upon arrival of remains followed by recitation of Holy Rosary.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 AM followed by interment services
 at Mount Carmel Cemetery, where she will be laid to a peaceful rest.

Thank You - Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Charlie Duenas Leon Guerrero, Children and Family



Lopez, Shakira

in joyful, exuberant halftime show

NEW YORK (AP)—Seizing their opportunity to make a cultural statement, Jennifer Lopez and Shakira infused the Super Bowl halftime show with an exuberance and joy that celebrated their Latina heritage.

Their breathless athleticism matched that of the football players waiting in the locker room.

Shakira opened with, yes, a hip-shaking performance of “She Wolf” and a fast-moving medley that included bits of “She Wolf,” “Whenever, Wherever” and a snippet of Led Zeppelin’s “Kashmir.” She managed a belly dance, some rope dancing and even backed into a crowd surf. Shakira ended her with her signature song, “Hips Don’t Lie.”

Lopez, in a black leather outfit that her dancers

matched, started with a nostalgic snippet of “Jenny From the Block.” She exhibited some startling pole-dancing moves, a reference to her much-celebrated turn in the movie “Hustlers.” At one point she bent into a deep squat while standing on the shoulders of a dancer that likely had muscles aching across the country in sympathy.

She tore through “Love Don’t Cost a Thing,” “Get Right,” “On the Floor” and “Que Calor,” finding time to slip away from the black leather in to sparkling silver outfit that left little to the imagination.

Having, essentially, an opening act for a concert that stretches not much longer than a dozen minutes was a risky move. At times the performance seemed rushed, as if they were trying to say too much in too short of time. The guest acts, J. Balvin and Bad Bunny, were superfluous and only served to better emphasize the talents of the headliners.

The first halftime show to celebrate Latino artists could rightly be declared a success,

and it also bodes well for the management of Jay-Z, who packaged the program for the first time on a new deal with the NFL.

Memorably, Lopez’s daughter, Emme, joined her mother for a verse of “Let’s Get Loud,” where the 11-year girl sang the chorus of Bruce Springsteen’s “Born in the U.S.A.” Her mother then held out her arms and showed off a red, white and blue cape to the crowd that was a representation of the Puerto Rican flag in its inner lining, with the stars and stripes on the outside.

It was a reminder to a television audience that approached 100 million that a different part of America was making a powerful statement in favor of inclusion.

The two women came together at the end to sing “Waka Waka (This Time for Africa),” the song Shakira composed that was the theme of the 2010 World Cup.

“Muchas gracias,” Shakira said as the camera pulled away.

“Thank you so much,” Lopez said.

AP
Jennifer Lopez, left, and Shakira perform during halftime of the NFL Super Bowl 54 football game between the San Francisco 49ers and the Kansas City Chiefs Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Super Bowl ads dialed up fun as an antidote to politics

NEW YORK (AP)—In the real world, political primaries are looming, impeachment is ongoing and heavy news never seems to stop. But during commercial breaks in the Super Bowl, advertisers did their best to serve up an antidote heavily spiked with fun.

True, political ads did invade the game, with President Trump and Michael Bloomberg, one of his Democratic challengers, both running spots. But mostly advertisers struck back with millions spent on celebrities, humor and even some weirdness.

“Just let us have fun,” said Stacey Wykoski, an administrative assistant in Grand Rapids, Michigan who watched the game at a Super Bowl Party with around a dozen people. “We’re going to be so deluged with political ads over the next nine months.”

For the most part, Super Bowl advertisers tried to oblige. They stayed away from social-cause messages and focused on lighthearted ads, stuffing them with popular celebrities, hit songs, funny dances and other gambits to appeal to Americans.

“This year it’s all about a return to Super Bowl basics,”

said Kelly O’Keefe, managing partner of consultancy Brand Federation. “This is a year of pure escapism at a time when we all crave a little escape.”

DELIVERING ON FUN

Since the Super Bowl falls on Groundhog’s Day this year, it was nearly inevitable that there would be a nod to the classic 1993 movie. Jeep took the ball and ran with it, painstakingly recreating the town square and other locations from the film and casting original actors Bill Murray, Brian Doyle Murray and Stephen Tobolowsky. The twist: instead of a Chevrolet truck, Murray uses a Jeep Gladiator truck for his daily exploits.

Cheetos capitalized on nostalgia by using the 30-year old MC Hammer classic “U Can’t Touch This.” The snack-food ad featured a man with bright orange Cheetos dust on his hands who can’t stop to help move furniture or take care of office tasks. Hammer himself—“Hammer pants” and all—also kept popping up to utter his iconic catchphrase.

If ads starred one celebrity, they often had more. Coke launched Coke Energy with an ad showing actor Jonah

Hill rallying to meet Martin Scorsese at a party by drinking Coke’s new energy drink.

But stuffing celebrities in ads didn’t always work. Hard Rock International enlisted Michael Bay for a frenetic commercial showing a frenzied heist caper involving Jennifer Lopez, Alex Rodriguez DJ Khaled, Pitbull, and Steven Van Zandt.

Charles Taylor, marketing professor at Villanova University, said many ads were “busy” with a lot going on. “They’re going by quickly and it is hard to pick everything up.”

That was true for Mark Nelson, watching the game at home with friends in Chicago. He said the Hard Rock ad stopped conversation at the Super Bowl party he was at, but “the story overwhelmed the brand. As one of my friends said, ‘I have no idea what that was for,’” he said.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

The Super Bowl is always attracts automakers launching a new vehicles, and this year nearly every carmaker touted an electric car.

Audi showed “Game of Thrones” actress Maisie Williams singing “Let it Go” to promote Audi’s suite of electric

vehicles. Hummer introduced Hummer EV with a cinematic black-and-white ad touting how quiet yet powerful the car is.

Porsche promoted its Taycan electric car with a frenetic car chase. And Ford showed off its electric Mustang with the help of Idris Elba.

SURREAL HUMOR

A tinge of weirdness crept into this year’s barrage of humor and celebrities. Quicken Loans Rocket Mortgage had an unsettling ad that showed “Aquaman” star Jason Momoa, known for his buff physique, heading home to “be himself”—as he strips off his muscles and hair to reveal he is skinny and bald. TurboTax tried to tie doing taxes into a CGI-enhanced dance of wobbling knees to a bouncy song, “All People Are Tax People.”

Snickers imagined a world where people sing on a hilltop (an homage to a famous “Hilltop” Coke ad) about digging a giant hole and putting a giant Snickers in it because the “world is out of sorts.”

And Pringle’s enlisted Adult Swim’s animated “Rick and Morty” duo with a meta ad in which the characters realize they’re stuck inside a

Pringles commercial.

QUIET MESSAGES

Advertisers worked hard to avoid the return of “sadvertising” from a few years back—when Nationwide Insurance did an ad about a child who died, among other gloomy spots—and generally steered clear of polarizing issues like income inequality or immigration as we saw in 2017.

But there were still some serious messages in the mix.

The NFL ran a 60-second ad about the devastation police violence has on families and its Inspire Change Initiative that was created to spread

awareness of social justice issues. But some criticized the ad as league hypocrisy given the exile of former player Colin Kaepernick over his activism on similar issues.

Kaepernick started a wave of protests about social and racial injustice by kneeling during the national anthem at games. “Every attempt by the @NFL to rehabilitate its image among Black viewers will ring hollow as long as Kaepernick is still unsigned to an NFL team,” tweeted Rashad Robinson, president of advocacy group Color of Change. “You cannot co-opt his message and blackball him at the same time.”



AP
This undated image provided by Hyundai Motor America shows from left John Krasinski, Rachel Dratch and Chris Evans in a scene from the company’s 2020 Super Bowl NFL football spot.

MIAMI (AP)—A noticeably relaxed Adam Levine took the stage with Maroon 5 for a pre-Super Bowl event in Miami on Saturday, telling the crowd he was relieved the pressures of the halftime show were behind the band.

"I'm just happy we can kind of kick back and hang out down the street and have fun, but still be somewhat away from the madness," said Levine, whose band headlined last year's Super Bowl halftime show in Atlanta.

The frontman asked the crowd which team they thought would win on Sunday but shrugged off answering his own question, saying he didn't have a preference between the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers. Drummer Matt Flynn, how-

ever, wore the jersey of San Francisco's George Kittle.

"Now that (expletive) is over. Now we're loose and we can have a good time," Levine said.

He clearly relished the no-pressure vibe, saying, "It's chill," when he forgot a cue to grab his guitar during "Sugar," even after admitting his mistake.

Dan + Shay, fresh off a Grammy win for "Speechless," opened the show. Demi Lovato surprised the crowd, joining the country duo on the ballad.

Maroon 5 rocked through a series of hits during a high-energy, 90-minute set, including "Payphone," "This Love," "Moves Like Jagger" and "Animal," which he played with a pink Hello Kitty guitar.

At the start of the show at the Miami Heat's home arena, Levine carried out Kobe

Adam Levine relieved halftime show stress is behind Maroon 5



AP
Maroon 5 performs on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020, in Miami.

Bryant's Los Angeles Lakers jersey. He later opened the encore set with an emotional rendition of "Memories," which he dedicated to Bryant, who was among nine people killed in a helicopter crash Jan. 26.

This year's pre-Super Bowl events have been suffused with grief and tributes to the basketball great in the aftermath of the crash, including during the Super Bowl media night Jan. 27 and former teammate Shaquille O'Neal's carnival-themed event Friday.

"I don't know if I'll make it through this one with my emotions intact. If you could sing with us it would make a huge," Levine said, before

stopping as the crowd erupted into chants of "Kobe."

Levine clutched his micro-

phone and hung his head low, saying one of his goals this year was to "love more and

live more" and encouraging the audience to do the same.

The rocker wore a Guns N' Roses muscle tank for most of the show, which was part of the Bud Light Super Bowl Music Fest. Gun N' Roses headlined a performance also at the American Airlines Arena the night before. The series opened Thursday, during which Miami's own DJ Khaled brought out several surprise guests including Rick Ross, 2 Chain and Migos. Meek Mill and DaBaby opened that show.

Jamie Foxx tricks pre-Super Bowl gala crowd with 'Beyoncé'

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Jamie Foxx tricked an A-list crowd at a pre-Super Bowl show Saturday, telling them Beyoncé was about to perform.

"I'm going to go ahead and let it out of the bag right now: Beyoncé. Beyoncé," he screamed as the guests at The Giving Fund's Big Game Big Give event cheered. "Beyoncé from Fort Lauderdale. It's not the one you were thinking, but still."

Queen Bey was not at the gala, which was held at a \$65 million waterfront home on Miami Beach's exclusive Star Island, but in attendance were several other celebrities, including Cuba Gooding Jr., Keegan-Michael Key, model Karolina Kurkova and "Breaking Bad" co-stars Bryan Cranston and Aaron Paul and famed filmmaker Michael Bay, who played host.

2001 Super Bowl MVP and Hall of Famer Ray Lewis honored fellow Hall of Famer Jim

Brown with a philanthropic award.

Foxx was playful all night, salsa dancing with the crowd, practicing his Spanish and telling everyone to get close because he smelled especially good that evening. But when the DJ played a club version of Whitney Houston's "I Wanna Dance with Somebody," he soured.

"We want the original Whitney," he said, before getting the audience to chant her name. The DJ quickly obliged and cued up her original hit.

Cranston and Paul made a toast to the New Year, with Cranston saying, "We have a lot of unfortunate things that have happened," clearly referencing the late Kobe Bryant and encouraging everyone "to try to remember people who are with us now today."

The event raised money for several charities, auctioning off sports memorabilia, last-minute Super Bowl tickets and a retreat on a private island in Belize.

Lady Gaga: 'I better hear no lip-syncing' at halftime show

MIAMI (AP)—Descending from the air, Lady Gaga kicked off a pre-Super Bowl concert by mimicking her entrance to her Super Bowl halftime performance three years ago, which earned her rave reviews.

Headlining the big sports stage was a recurring theme of her Miami concert Saturday night, and the pop star sent a message to Sunday's featured performers: "I better hear no lip-syncing tomorrow!"

Jennifer Lopez and Shakira will join forces to perform at Super Bowl 54 at the Hard Rock Stadium, when the San Francisco 49ers will take on the Kansas City Chiefs.

Gaga has denounced lip-syncing since the beginning of her career, which kicked off in 2008 with her multi-platinum album, "The Fame." Moments after delivering the sharp comment as she sat by the piano, she told the audience: "I love you Mi-

ami. I love you J. Lo. I love you Shakira."

Gaga performed at the AT&T TV Super Saturday Night show at Meridian at Island Gardens. Toward the end of her show—which closed with an epic performance of her Oscar- and Grammy-winning smash "Shallow"—she said she hoped Lopez and Shakira shine onstage.

"I wish so much love and so much luck to everyone that's doing the halftime show, to both the teams that are playing each other in the Super Bowl," she said. "They're all champions."

Teary-eyed, she thanked the audience for their support and for allowing her to perform at the halftime show in 2017.

"Thank you so much for believing in me. I remember when I played the halftime show and it was one of the most special, beautiful things that's ever happened

to me. So, thank you," said Gaga, who also wowed audiences at the 2016 Super Bowl when she sang the national anthem. "And once again, all my love to everyone that's performing and playing tomorrow. I hope they all feel as lucky as I do right now."

Gaga performed a two-hour set Saturday, changing three times during the performance, which she kicked off in a glittery bodysuit and flowy, blue hair. She ran through a number of hit songs, including "Just Dance," "Poker Face," "Born This Way," "Bad Romance" and "Telephone."

Feverish fans cheered loudly at the standing-only concert, and one of them even threw a letter onstage, which Gaga read out loud.

"In 2014 I fought for my life due to mental illness that stemmed from my own insecurities and life experiences. Without your radiant positiv-

ity and encouragement, I don't know if I would have had the strength to continue to fight to recover my life back," Gaga read from the letter.

She invited the fan onstage and hugged her tightly.

Gaga said AT&T TV will donate \$1 for every tweet using #SuperSaturdayNight to her Born This Way Foundation, which supports mental and emotional wellness.

"We put mental health first aid into schools around the country and we're going to continue to do that until we get it in every school. It's a goal of mine," she said.

Gaga, who has openly talked about her struggles with post-traumatic stress disorder, went on to perform "Million Reasons," saying: "I wrote this song because I was going through a rough time, and when life gave me a million reasons to want to give up, I just needed one good one to stick around."

Fear keeps jittery driver from getting a license

DEAR ABBY: I am trying hard to let go of my paralyzing fear of driving, which has prevented me from getting a license. I am not sure why I get so nervous and afraid when I get behind the wheel. I really need a car to get my family and myself around. I just wish I knew what was causing this. Could you please help me figure it out?

FEAR OF DRIVING

DEAR F.O.D.: Gladly. The quickest way to get to the bottom of what's causing your fear of driving would be to discuss it with a licensed mental health professional—if possible, one who specializes in treating patients with phobias. Your physician or your health insurance company should be able to refer you to someone who is qualified.

DEAR ABBY: A few months ago, my wife and I invited another couple over for dinner. The husband was on his phone the entire time, showing us YouTube videos he apparently thought were interesting. After dinner, he lamented that he had run out of data and wanted us to provide our Wi-Fi password so he could continue watching his videos. I begrudgingly gave him access, but was really irked by it. Isn't it rude for

a dinner guest to ask to use your Wi-Fi?

NOT SO INTERESTED

DEAR NOT SO INTERESTED: It was not rude to ask for your Wi-Fi password. In some circles, it's normal. What WAS rude was for one guest to monopolize the conversation the way that dinner guest did. I'll bet it will be a long time before you invite that couple again.

DEAR ABBY: I need help dealing with a neighbor problem. "Diane" and I have been neighbors for five years. We both have daughters in elementary school who ride the bus. At the bus stop, Diane always manages to point out something about my daughter or me that makes me uncomfortable. She'll ask things like, "Are those new shoes?" "I like that jacket. Was it expensive?" "You have a new hairdo; did it cost much?" Or "Wow, how can you afford such nice clothes for your daughter?" "Are those new jeans? How much were they?"

I find her prying annoying and quite rude. Most of the other parents avoid her, probably because of this behavior. I work to afford the things I have, and I don't feel I need to discuss what I spend for my child or myself with anyone. Other than this, she's a nice neighbor. What's the best way to get her to stop asking these questions? I try to ignore them, but this has been going on for

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

years, and I'm at a loss.

ANNOYED IN NORTH CAROLINA

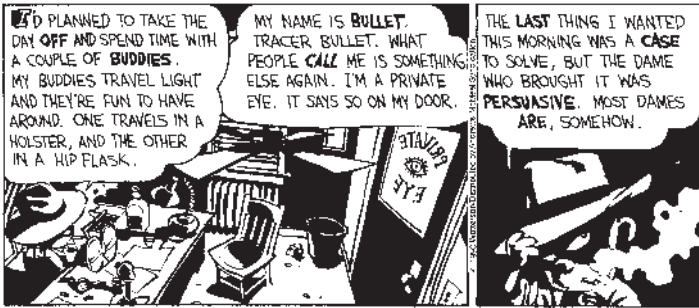
DEAR ANNOYED: The surest way to get your neighbor to stop asking these kinds of questions would be the direct approach. Tell her questions of that nature make you uncomfortable and to please stop asking. If she persists, repeat it until she finally gets the message.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



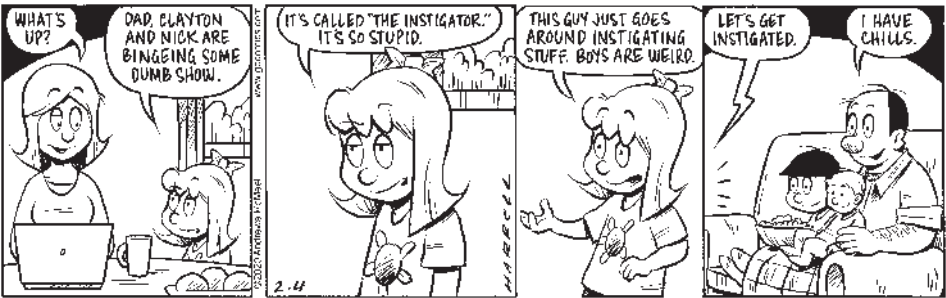
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



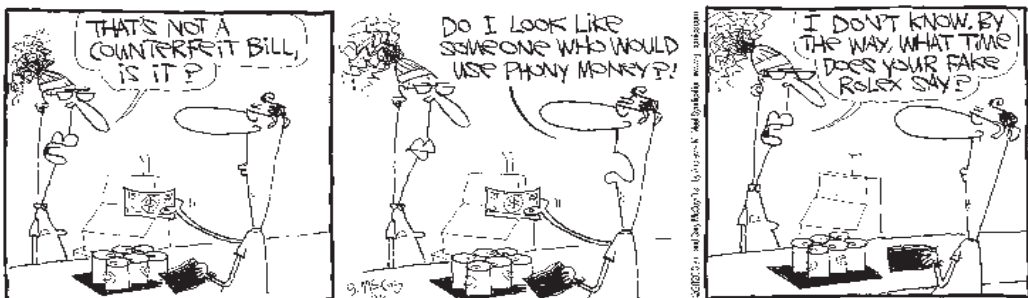
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Rosary component

5 Actor Baldwin

9 Towboat

12 Rights org.

13 Old Italian money

14 Oklahoma tribe

15 Re-invested IRA funds, say

17 "Rah!"

18 Dressed

19 Malia's sister

21 Walked nervously

24 Getting the job done

25 Oodles

26 Sushi bar order

30 Pac. counterpart

31 Tender spots

32 2016 Olympics city

33 Attendance check

DOWN

1 Happy hour venue

2 Green prefix

3 100%

4 Sweet-sounding

5 Edison's middle name

6 Fibbed

7 Goof up

8 Some corporate jets

9 Places that sell teddy bears and dolls

10 Beehive State

11 Spanish artist

16 Vintage

20 Balloon filler

21 Jack of early talk TV

22 Sax range

23 Imploded

24 Scott Turw book

26 Frog's relative

27 Internet address

28 Speech problem

29 Novelist Anita

31 Type of swimmer's kick

34 Half of CXII

35 South Dakota capital

37 Humorist

38 Reindeer herder

39 Largest continent

40 Borscht base

41 Some wines

44 New Deal org.

45 Owned by us

46 Ton fractions (Abbr.)

47 Rent out

Solution time: 22 mins.

TECH BAG PALE
ALOEVERA ANON
TOMHANKS NDO
HID TEPEES
ASPEN PALE
BLAH GINK NG
SAP BLNKS IOU
VACATES BLOT
AIERS ARENA
SIESTA ESE
ABET NO-HANKS
FILL KNEEDEEP
ESSE SOS SONY

Yesterday's answer 2-4

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Oscar De La Hoya, 47; Gabrielle Anwar, 50; Clint Black, 58; Alice Cooper, 72.

Happy Birthday: Change what's necessary. Be willing to walk away from people who don't share your views and situations that do not fit into your plans. Prepare to put in the energy required to infuse your ideas and intentions into the lifestyle you want to adopt, and a marked improvement will unfold. Trust your intelligence, skills and experience, and you will reach your goal. Your numbers are 3, 14, 21, 26, 32, 44, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make a constructive change that improves your outlook. Participate in an event or start a hobby that brings you in contact with people who can enrich your life. If something different is what you want, it's up to you to make it happen. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Practicality will be necessary when dealing with career or financial prospects. Refrain from investing in someone other than yourself. Focus on what you are doing, and do the best job possible. Don't buy into a scam or look for easy money. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll get the wrong impression about someone if you make assumptions or act in haste. Choose to respond with affection and kindness instead of criticism, and you will offset a situation that can lead to a loss. Avoid joint ventures. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Concentrating on home, money and following your path will keep you out of trouble. Don't let everyone in on your secrets. The more

you reveal, the more you will have to worry about the information being used against you. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take part in what's going on in your community, and it will broaden your perspective regarding new possibilities. Offer leadership, and take on the position with vigor and determination. Someone will admire you for your investment of time and energy. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep your thoughts to yourself. Some opposition will surface if you are too demanding. Interfering or meddling in situations that you know little about will be a waste of time and energy. Do your own thing, and avoid sharing personal information or ideas. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Interact with people who know more than you. Traveling or participating in meetings will lead to new friendships, possible job opportunities and knowledge that will help you get ahead. Reconnect with an old colleague. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Handle money matters with care. Make sure you have the funds before making a big-ticket purchase. An outstanding bill will leave you short of cash. Someone you trust will offer you sound advice and assistance. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Small but essential problems will surface. Be careful when dealing with others, or you will end up involved in a debate. Expect to receive complaints; compassion and patience will be required. Personal challenges will build character. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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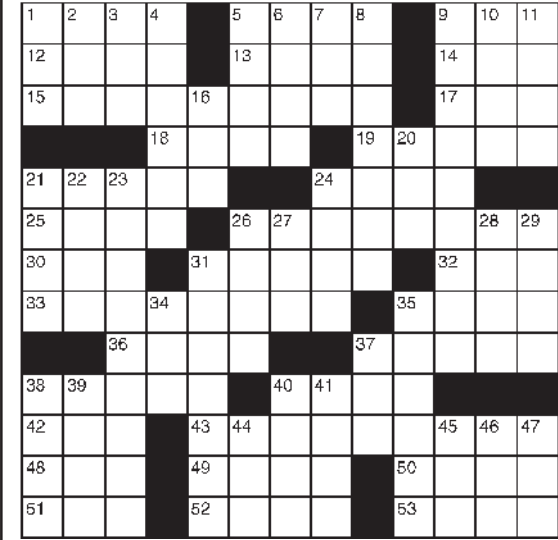
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Getting along with others will be the key to getting things done on time. You'll attract attention if you include everyone in your plans. Your confidence will give you the edge you need to lead others and help you raise your profile. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Brainstorming with a friend will lead to emotional issues. Take care of your own needs if a situation spins out of control. Do something that will be relaxing and help you put your life in perspective. Personal growth is favored. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Proceed with caution, especially if you have to work alongside others. You will face problems with a loved one if you complain or are too demanding. Costly changes or purchases will not bring good results. Choose love over discord. **

Birthday Baby: You are curious, energetic and adaptable. You are insightful and spontaneous.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	6	3	9	1	8	4	2	7
9	8	4	6	2	7	5	1	3
1	2	7	4	3	5	8	6	9
8	3	5	2	7	9	6	4	1
6	7	2	5	4	1	3	9	8
4	1	9	3	8	6	7	5	2
3	5	6	7	9	2	1	8	4
2	4	1	8	5	3	9	7	6
7	9	8	1	6	4	2	3	5

Difficulty Level ★★ 2/04

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WONDERWORD By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PHONE BILLS Solution: 9 letters

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L B T R M U S I C A M U N N E
L D A O L N W O D I S G U T C
A H X T H T S V T A D S T H P
C S E E T P X R G I E H E R M
M C S L E E I E S L C A S M A
O A I E L A R T E I R H S I
N N D A T A Y A G V E C S L
E N O T G N I R H A R R T E A
Y E R O C S L D C R E D I T T
P D M E G A B Y T E S T W A I
O R M A T P L A N V E S S D G
C A S O O Y L I M A F W I F I
N C T W I R E L E S S O U N D

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Yesterday's Answer: Subscriber

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Djokovic comes back for 8th Aussie Open title, 17th Slam

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP TENNIS WRITER

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Novak Djokovic was looking weary and worn down. He felt dizzy and trailed Dominic Thiem in the Australian Open final—miscues mounting, deficit growing.

Djokovic did what he does, though. He refused to lose, waited for a chance to pounce and found his best tennis when absolutely necessary. Even threw in a wrinkle, serve-and-volleying twice when facing break point.

Regaining his stamina and strokes, and showing some gutsy creativity, Djokovic came back to edge Thiem 6-4, 4-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 Sunday night for an eighth Australian Open title, second in a row, and 17th Grand Slam trophy overall.

"I was on the brink of losing the match. Dominic ... disrupted my rhythm in my game at one point. He was a better player," Djokovic said. "Probably one point — and one shot — separated us tonight."

Nonetheless, Djokovic improved his record in semifinals and finals at Melbourne Park to 16-0 and assured himself of returning to No. 1 in the rankings, replacing Rafael Nadal.

No other man in the history of tennis has won this hard-court tournament more than six times. Only Roger Federer, with 20, and Nadal, with 19, have won more men's Grand Slam singles trophies than Djokovic.

"Amazing achievement. Unreal what you're doing throughout all these years," said the fifth-seeded Thiem, who is 0-3 in major finals. "You and also two other guys, I think you brought men's tennis to a complete new level."

Both finalists spoke about the devastating wildfires that have killed dozens of people and millions of animals around Australia. Djokovic also mentioned the recent deaths of NBA star Kobe Bryant and one of his daughters in a helicopter crash.

Addressing Thiem, Djokovic said: "I am sure you will definitely get one of the Grand Slam trophies. More than one."

A little more than six months after saving a pair of championship points against Federer en route to winning a five-set Wimbledon final, Djokovic again showed that he can't ever be counted out, coming back from two-sets-to-one behind in a Grand Slam title match for the first time.

It didn't come easily for the 32-year-old from Serbia. He lost six games in a row in one stretch to Thiem, who plays a similar baseline game and eliminated Nadal in the quarterfinals.



Djokovic visited by a doctor and trainer in the third set and, desperate to hydrate, guzzled bottles of water and energy drink. He lectured the chair umpire about time violations.

"My energy dropped significantly," Djokovic said at his news conference, sipping an anti-oxidant drink instead of the Champagne offered by tournament director Craig Tiley.

This was not the dominant Djokovic who made a hard-to-believe total of nine unforced errors during his straight-set triumph over Nadal in the final a year ago. Djokovic eclipsed

that total in the first set alone Sunday, finishing with 57.

It was a physical test offering plenty of entertaining exchanges, with 61 points lasting at least nine shots apiece.

"Very demanding," Thiem said.

"Of course," he said, "I just feel a lot of emptiness right now."

At two key moments, Djokovic abandoned his usual grind-points-out script and went on the attack, rushing to the net after a serve when facing a break point — first, at 2-1 in the fourth set, then

again at 2-1 in the fifth.

Paid off both times.

"Not characteristic of me," Djokovic said. "Kind of all-or-nothing."

Making a charge as his less-experienced foe faltered, Djokovic broke to lead 5-3 in the fourth set, helped by a sloppy volley into the net tape, a double-fault and a bad forehand by Thiem.

A break early in the fifth helped Djokovic clutch the silver Australian Open trophy he also won in 2008, 2011-13, 2015-16 and 2019.

He adds that haul to his five titles from Wimbledon, three from the U.S. Open and one from the French Open.

Thiem, an Austrian who is 26, was the runner-up to Nadal at Roland Garros each of the past two years and was again trying to become the first man born in the 1990s to win a major singles title.

Instead, the Big Three have won 13 consecutive Slams and 56 of the last 67.

"It's unique in sports history that the three best players — by far — are playing in the same era," Thiem said.

Thiem feels empty after Australian final

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Emptiness. Exhaustion. All-too-familiar feelings for Dominic Thiem after a Grand Slam final.

He has lost three on the biggest stage at the majors, adding a five-set loss to Novak Djokovic on the hard courts at Melbourne Park on Sunday to his two against Rafael Nadal on the red clay at Roland Garros.

Each time he's come up against the greatest-of-all-time at that particular venue.

He had to beat top-seeded Nadal in the quarterfinals at the Australian Open, then a fellow up-and-comer, Alexander Zverev, in the semifinals.

Just to get a shot at Djokovic, who had won all seven previous times he'd reached the Australian final, Thiem had spent almost 18 1/2 hours on court and beaten four seeded players through six rounds. Djokovic had spent almost six fewer hours in action, and

had only dropped one set in the tournament.

"I've rarely felt physically (so) tired, especially now after all the tension's gone," Thiem said after losing 6-4, 4-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 on Rod Laver Arena.

After recovering a break in the first set, Thiem surrendered it with a double-fault — his first. He rebounded and, from 4-4 in the second, won six straight games and took the next two sets, with his hard, flat ground strokes troubling Djokovic.

And then, after being one set from a breakthrough major title, the 26-year-old Austrian had to accept being runner-up again after a four-hour final. Even Djokovic admitted just one or two shots made the difference.

"I just feel a lot of emptiness right now. But, yeah, that's it. I know the feeling," Thiem said. "I did after the last two in Paris. But, yeah, also already now I feel little bit of

motivation to come back for the next Grand Slam."

That'll be in Paris, in May.

He reckons it's just the fine details he needs to work on, and a bit of reshaping after honing his game specifically for the hard surface.

What made him most proud of his run in Australia, he said, was "the way I kept my level, the way I kept my tension over all the two weeks."

"I didn't have easy matches, especially from the quarters on. Beating Rafa in over four hours, then two days later going back out again against Sascha. Unbelievably intense, close match. Then two days later going out again against Novak, who won the most titles here and again played on a very high level."

That gives him a brighter picture for the future.

"I'm very aware and sure now that I can play on a very high level for a full Grand

AP
Serbia's Novak Djokovic kisses the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup after defeating Austria's Dominic Thiem in the final of the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, early Monday, Feb. 3, 2020.

"That's what makes it very, very difficult for other players to break through."

The status quo appeared in peril in the third set, when Djokovic merely watched and shook his head as a lob by Thiem curled over him and in. Djokovic didn't chase it. Wasn't entirely clear right then what the problem was, but perhaps he knew he needed to save some strength.

Heat, so often a factor in Melbourne, was not an issue. The crisp, cool conditions were pretty much ideal at the start, with a light breeze and the temperature around 70 degrees (20 Celsius). That dropped as the natural light faded, first leaving a violet ceiling of sky before nightfall arrived, accompanied by alarmingly loud squawks from a flock of seagulls perched on steel railings atop the arena.

Not surprisingly, given his experience and expertise, Djokovic came out loose, limber and locked in. Of the initial half-dozen points lasting at least nine strokes, he won all six. Within 13 minutes, he was ahead 3-0, as a chorus of his nickname — "No-le! No-le! No-le!" — rang out.

Undaunted, Thiem displayed praiseworthy patience, and when Djokovic's aim and focus betrayed him, this became an intriguing contest.

At 4-all in the second set, Djokovic was warned by chair umpire Damien Dumusois for taking too much time before a serve. A poor drop shot found the net to set up break point, and Dumusois again cited Djokovic for letting the 25-second clock expire; the penalty was a fault. A tepid 85 mph second serve followed, and Djokovic flubbed a forehand to give Thiem a 5-4 lead.

As Djokovic walked to the changeover, he tapped Dumusois on the left shoe, gave him a thumbs-up, then sat down and told him, "You made yourself famous."

That was part of a six-game run that gave Thiem the second set—Djokovic had taken 16 in a row since the opening round—and control of the third.

Just as it seemed Thiem might be on his way, Djokovic made a stand.

"It was anybody's game, really. I knew that very early in the fifth set, it was crucial for me to make a break," Djokovic said. "I had that mental edge again, and that was enough to win it."

Antetokounmpo lifts Bucks over Booker-led Suns



MILWAUKEE (AP)—The Milwaukee Bucks have lost 28 games since the start of last season. Only once did they follow one defeat

with another.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 30 points and 19 rebounds, and the Bucks rebounded yet again by beating the Phoenix Suns 129-108 Sunday — two days after a loss to Denver.

“A good response,” Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. “Not our best, but a steady, good response.”

Antetokounmpo reached the 30-point mark for the 26th time, and fellow All-Star Khris Middleton had 25 points, eight rebounds and six assists. Brook Lopez added 17 points, and the Bucks shot 49.5% and made 15 of 38 from 3-point range.

Devin Booker scored 32 points and spurred a third-quarter surge by Phoenix, and the deficit dropped to nine when DeAndre Ayton dropped a hook shot with 3:51 left in the quarter. Milwaukee responded with three straight 3-pointers — including back-to-back from Donte DiVincenzo — to snuff out the rally.

“It was a game until they hit those three 3s in a row,” Phoenix coach Monty Williams said. “I’m proud of the way the guys competed.”

Ayton had 20 points and 14 rebounds, and the Suns shot 39% and made just 6 of 23 from deep.

Rockets 117, Pelicans 109

In Houston, Houston coach Mike D’Antoni has been around James Harden long enough to know that he’d eventually snap out of his shooting slump.

But he admitted on Sunday that he was quite relieved to see it happen sooner rather than later.

“I can go home and go to bed now,” D’Antoni said. “Before I wouldn’t be sleeping much.”

Harden had 40 points and came an assist shy of a triple-double to lead the Rockets to a 117-109 win over the New Orleans Pelicans.

Rookie sensation Zion Williamson had 21 points and 10 rebounds for the Pelicans, whose three-game winning streak was snapped.

Harden, who added 10 rebounds and nine assists, poured in 26 points in the first half and cooled down in the second half. But he still had his second straight game with 30 or more points after failing to score 30 in his previous four games as he worked through a shooting slump.

“James is James, so we can put all that other stuff the rest



AP
Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) shoots against the Phoenix Suns during the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020, in Milwaukee.

because he seems like he’s back,” D’Antoni said.

Jrue Holiday had three points before Josh Hart made one of two free throws to allow New Orleans to cut the lead to 110-107 with about two minutes to go.

Eric Gordon added a basket seconds after that and Danuel House hit a 3-pointer to make it 115-107 with less than a minute left to seal the victory.

Brandon Ingram had 28 points and 12 rebounds for New Orleans.

Houston went with its small lineup again as center Clint Capela missed his second straight game and the third in four games with a bruised right heel. Russell Westbrook added 22 points for the Rockets and Ben McLemore had 22 off the bench.

Harden was more interested in talking about Houston’s defense down the stretch than his shooting.

“We did a pretty good and solid job the entire game,” he said. “The fourth quarter was the time to lock it down and we did that to win the game.”

Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry was unhappy that his team didn’t get the ball to Williamson for long stretches in the fourth quarter.

“Zion can’t go four minutes without touching the basket-

ball and that’s on me,” he said. “That’s something that I’ve got to make sure that that will never happen again.”

Gentry was asked if the failure to get the ball to him was a product of the team not being used to playing with the rookie who has only played six games.

“No,” he said. “You’ve got to get him the damn basketball ... if not there’s no reason for us to have him in the game. And that’s not going to happen either.”

Williamson wasn’t upset about his lack of touches in the fourth quarter.

“I trust my teammates,” he said. “They felt like what they did was the right play and I don’t fault them with anything they did.”

Raptors 129, Bulls 102

In Toronto, Terence Davis hasn’t forgotten about being passed over for a spot in the Rising Stars Challenge at All-Star weekend. Even so, the Toronto Raptors rookie is just happy he’s playing for a contender.

Davis came off the bench to score a career-high 31 points and the Raptors tied a team record with their 11th straight win, beating the Chicago Bulls 129-102.

Toronto also won 11 straight in January 2016 and again

from Feb. 26-March 16, 2018.

Pascal Siakam added 17 points, Serge Ibaka had 16, Chris Boucher 15 and Kyle Lowry 14 for the reigning NBA champions. The Raptors outscored the Bulls 69-39 in the second half to win their 12th consecutive meeting with Chicago.

Davis made a career-high 12 of his 15 field goal attempts, including six of seven from 3-point range.

“The ball was going in, so I kept shooting,” Davis said.

Davis is the sixth rookie in Raptors history to score at least 30 in a game, and the first to do it as a reserve.

“He’s reaping some of the benefits of all his hard work,” coach Nick Nurse said.

Davis said the All-Star snub was “definitely in the back of my mind,” but insisted he’s content with the Raptors, who are second in the East.

“I’m not saying I wouldn’t want to play in the game, because it’s a special event, but I would rather play in the play-offs,” Davis said.

An undrafted rookie from the University of Mississippi, Davis had scored 23 points twice this season, most recently against Washington on Jan. 17. He surpassed that mark with a 13-point fourth quarter, and received a hug from Lowry when he checked out with

3:12 remaining.

“It just shows you what type of team this is,” Davis said. “We all love each other, we care for each other, and I wouldn’t want to be anywhere else, honestly.”

Thaddeus Young fouled out with 21 points and Zach LaVine had 18 as Toronto swept Chicago for the third straight season.

Chandler Hutchison scored 17 points, and Ryan Arcidiacono and Coby White each had 12 for the Bulls, who are 8-18 on the road.

The Raptors were without guard Norman Powell, who broke the ring finger on his left hand in Friday’s win at Detroit. Center March Gasol missed his third straight game because of a sore left hamstring. Both players are out indefinitely.

“With Norm being out, (Davis) is going to have an opportunity,” Lowry said. “He’s got to take advantage of it.”

Bulls guard Kris Dunn missed his first game of the season, with Hutchison starting in his place. Coach Jim Boylen said Dunn has been diagnosed with a sprained medial collateral ligament in his right knee.

Pistons 128, Nuggets 123, OT

In Detroit, it took Detroit just

over half a quarter to fall behind by 21. Then the Pistons rallied almost as quickly.

“We came out as flat as a pancake,” coach Dwane Casey said. “But the second group came in and played.”

Bruce Brown had 19 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists, and fellow reserve guard Reggie Jackson scored 20 points to lift the Pistons to a 128-123 overtime victory over the Denver Nuggets on Sunday. Andre Drummond added 21 points and 17 rebounds for Detroit, which snapped a five-game losing streak.

It was the 400th career double-double for the 26-year-old Drummond. Only Dwight Howard, who was 25, has reached that milestone at a younger age.

Nikola Jokic had 39 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds for Denver.

It was an impressive day for Detroit’s younger players. Brown, who is in his second NBA season, played the most of anyone on the Pistons. Rookie Sekou Doumbouya scored all 17 of his points in the first half to help Detroit dig out of its early hole.

Drummond put the Pistons ahead to stay with a dunk early in overtime, and Brown added a 3-pointer that made it 116-112. Drummond fouled out with 2:43 left, but Detroit was able to hold on.

Jokic made a 3-pointer with 29.4 seconds left that made it 126-123, but Thon Maker answered with an alley-oop dunk from Tony Snell at the other end to push the lead to five with 16.5 seconds left.

“When that last lob went up to Thon, I did hold my breath,” Casey said. “Time, score, situation—but he made it, so it worked out.”

The Nuggets were playing for the third time in four days, and the 12:30 p.m. start time — 10:30 a.m. back in Denver — made for another potential challenge. The Nuggets looked just fine at the outset, making 16 of their first 20 shots from the field. They led 28-7 and 31-10, but that three-touchdown lead on Super Bowl Sunday didn’t last.

“I was so impressed with the start of the game on both ends of the floor,” Denver coach Michael Malone said. “We went to our bench and right when we went to our bench, it was like the bottom fell out.”

VENUES

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jerseys enjoyed a sumptuous breakfast buffet and later indulged on burgers, French fries, and free-flowing Miller Lite beer.

Saipan World Resort’s “Touchdown” at the Sunflower Hall was also sponsored by PTC with Heineken as the headlining beverage. F&B director Mike Babauta said the just over 40 patrons were treated to morning refresh-

ments and lunch buffet.

Majority of the patrons at the Susupe landmark were 49ers fans and Babauta said he’s pretty satisfied with the turnout “considering almost everybody is doing it.”

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan F&B director Das Krishnan said the 60-odd football fans that graced their Super Bowl LIV party at the Chambre Bar was evenly split among Chiefs and 49ers supporters, give or take a few who really didn’t care who won and just loved

the game centered around the pigskin.

For \$25, their customers partook of breakfast, lunch of pasta and fried chicken, and free-flowing Heineken and Pepsi products, as like World Resort and PIC, the Fiesta Resort shindig was also brought to you by PIC.

“Very glad with the turnout. Everyone seemed to be happy because it’s a family kind of thing—cozy setting and smaller the better,” said Krishnan.

PTC general manager

Charles Cepeda said his company always looks forward to sponsoring Super Bowl parties on island. “It was a food game for all the fans. I hope they all enjoyed the game this Monday morning,” he added.

Over at Hyatt Regency Saipan, more than 150 loud and proud Chiefs and 49ers faithful filled up the hotel’s cavernous ballroom.

MARPAC resident manager Guy Pudney was blown away by the enthusiasm of the crowd that descended the Ga-

rapan hotel yesterday for arguably the island’s biggest Super Bowl party.

“We had a sold-out house here at Hyatt. I’m estimating about 150 people. I’m very surprised it was just about 50-50. I’m very surprised because Saipan always favored West Coast teams. There are way more 49ers fans here [usually],” he said.

Food at the Hyatt Super Bowl party consisted of a light breakfast of eggs, bacon, fried rice, ham, assorted bread, juices and

lunch made up of finger food—AKA football food—like chili dogs, nachos, pizza, French fries, and chicken tenders.

MARPAC also gave away a slew of prizes during the Super Bowl party, among them a Bud Light mini cooler, two Bud Light NFL coolers, a Budweiser refrigerator, cases of beer, chairs, and a 65-inch TV that was sponsored by Triple J SuperFresh & Truckload Store.

“Thank you everyone for coming out. Thank you to Hyatt for preparing our good

CHIEFS

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preached all year long.”

The Chiefs (15-4) trailed 24-0 and 17-7 in their previous playoff games, both in the first half. In the big game, they nearly didn’t have time for a comeback.

Kansas City’s fans in the crowd of 62,417 at Hard Rock Stadium got little opportunity to chant and do the tomahawk chop as KC fell behind 20-10 in the third quarter. Mahomes even threw his second interception of the night after they fell behind.

But the vaunted 49ers defense wilted late and Mahomes brought the magic that makes him so special.

He completed passes of 44 yards to Tyreek Hill and 38 to Sammy Watkins. The touchdowns came on short throws to Travis Kelce to cut the deficit to three and to Damien Williams for the lead. The first NFL title in Reid’s two-decade career was clinched by Williams’ 38-yard TD run, sending red-clad Chiefs fans into chants of “Andy!” Andy!”

Reid, 61, won a Super Bowl ring with the 1996 Packers while in charge of tight ends. He’s been seeking one as a head coach since being hired by Philadelphia in 1999. The Eagles lost in their only trip to the big game under Reid after the 2004 season.

“This is what it’s all about,” Reid said as confetti fell and the Chiefs celebrated the climax of the NFL’s 100th season. “What a great team, great coaches. Appreciate every bit of it.”

Mahomes found Hill, whose bobble led to the second San Francisco pick, for 44 yards on a third-and-15 — the first long pass completed by Kansas City. A 20-yard pass interference call on Tarvarius Moore, who had that earlier pick, put the ball at the 1 and Kelce was wide open for the score.

The Chiefs defense, confounded by the Niners’ misdirection much of the game, got stingy and forced a three-and-out. Mahomes soon hit Watkins down the right sideline behind Richard Sherman for a 38-yard gain, leading to Wil-

liams’ first score.

San Francisco (15-4) had nothing left in the fourth quarter, and its coach, Kyle Shanahan saw yet another late-game meltdown by his team. Three years ago, as offensive coordinator in Atlanta, he was part of the Falcons’ Super Bowl collapse and loss in overtime to New England.

“We’ll lick our wounds and we’ll get over this,” Shanahan said.

Kansas City, an original AFL franchise, won the final Super Bowl before the full merger, beating Minnesota in 1970. Chiefs owner Lamar Hunt even coined the phrase Super Bowl.

Now the Hunt family can add a Vince Lombardi Trophy to the Lamar Hunt Trophy earned with the AFC crown.

“It’s a beautiful trophy,” Chiefs owner Clark Hunt said. “I’m so happy for our players, coaches and fans. And especially Andy Reid. Nobody deserves this trophy more than Andy Reid.”

San Francisco went 4-12 in 2018 and Shanahan was on something of a hot seat this season. He came close to a ring once again, but down the stretch the Niners couldn’t slow the no-huddle attack at which Mahomes, Hill, Kelce, Williams and all the other Chiefs excel.

“We have heart,” Mahomes said. “We never give up and those guys around us, the leaders on the team, have that mindset that we never give up.”

The fourth quarter fireworks by the Chiefs were along the lines of the expected offensive explosion. Earlier, there were some strong drives but not a lot of huge plays.

After a tribute during the pregame ceremony to basketball superstar Kobe Bryant, who died a week ago in a helicopter crash along with eight others, and Pro Football Hall of Famer Chris Doleman, who died Tuesday night of brain cancer, the 49ers used up nearly six minutes on their opening drive, yet got only Robbie Gould’s 38-yard field goal. Kansas City took up 7:26 for its next march, including a fourth-and-1 run by Williams on a direct snap to the 49ers 1. All four Chiefs in the back-

field spun around before the snap.

Mahomes took it in to end the 15-play series on a run option.

The 7-3 deficit was the first for San Francisco since Game 15. It soon became 10-3 after Jimmy Garoppolo’s ill-advised lob under pressure was intercepted by Bashaud Breeland. Another fourth-down gamble paid off for KC, with Williams gaining 3 on a pitchout. But the Chiefs stalled and Harrison Butker kicked a 31-yard field goal.

San Francisco needed a spark and, as it often has this season, the running game provided it. Gouging the Chiefs in the trenches, the 49ers gained 53 yards on five straight rushes before Garoppolo hit on a pair of passes. The second completion, over the middle to Kyle Juszczyk, saw the full-back look like anything but with a nifty open-field move past safety Daniel Sorensen — perhaps Kansas City’s best tackle. J uszczyk surged into the end zone for a 15-yard TD to tie it at 10.

Once more, Garoppolo was brilliant on a drive after being picked off. He improved 39 for 42 for 461 yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions with a 136.2 rating on such series after the TD.

Gould’s 42-yarder gave the Niners their first lead, capping the opening drive of the second half. Again, their misdirection plays kept the Chiefs off-balance on defense.

As Garoppolo did in the first half, Mahomes then threw into heavy coverage trying to hit Hill and was picked by Fred Warner. It was the first interception of Mahomes in five postseason games.

And it paid off with another efficient series for the Niners, keyed by a 26-yard completion to Kendrick Bourne on third down. Raheem Mostert, the star of the NFC title game, surged in from the 1 for a 20-10 edge.

Hardly unfamiliar territory for Kansas City.

“We have an ability as a team not just on offense, as team, to figure out what the other team is doing and put our foot in the ground and say enough is enough,” Kelce said. “It’s special.”

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Mahomes led another TD drive to give the Chiefs a 24-20 edge, setting the stage for Garoppolo to lead a late-game comeback in the final 2:39.

The Niners managed to move the ball across midfield following the two-minute warning before two straight

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comeback victory and deliver the franchise its first Super Bowl title in 50 years.

“We never lost faith,” Mahomes said. “That’s the biggest thing. Everybody on this team, no one had their head down. And we believed in each other. And that’s what we preached all year long — and we had this guy (Reid) right here to get us there.

“And we found a way to get it in the end.”

The 24-year-old Mahomes was selected the game’s MVP after bouncing back from being intercepted on two straight possessions as the Chiefs’ title hopes seemingly slipped away.

“I was making a lot of mistakes out there early,” Mahomes acknowledged.

But trailing 20-10, Mahomes and the Chiefs suddenly got going — and didn’t stop until they stood in a confetti shower while passing around the Lombardi Trophy.

And it was the late-game performance of Mahomes that got them where Len Dawson last delivered the Chiefs in 1970.

“It’s not all Patrick, and he’ll be the first to tell you that,” Reid said, “but it’s a good place to start.”

Mahomes capped a 10-play, 83-yard drive with a 1-yard touchdown toss to Kelce that made it 20-17 with 6:13 remaining.

There were already signs on that drive that Mahomes was on the verge of something special.

“Anything is possible with him,” fullback Anthony Sherman said.

On third-and-15 from the Chiefs 35, Mahomes found a wide-open Tyreek Hill 44 yards downfield for a first down that set up the score — the key play in the comeback.

incompletions. Emmanuel Sanders then broke open deep on third down but Garoppolo just overthrew him.

“We missed some shots downfield, some plays we usually make,” Garoppolo said. “We just didn’t make some of the plays we normally make.”

A fourth-down sack ended the chance for Shanahan to join his father, Mike, as the

“We were in a bad situation,” Mahomes said. “Tyreek made a really great play and that got us going there.”

On Kansas City’s next drive, Mahomes zipped the ball around — for 13 yards to Kelce and 3 to Hill, before tossing a perfectly placed rainbow pass to Sammy Watkins down the right sideline for 38 yards to get the ball to the 49ers 10.

Three plays later, Mahomes threw a 5-yard pass to Damien Williams, who reached over the goal line — and it stood after a video review — to put Kansas City up 24-20 with 2:44 remaining.

Mahomes flexed both arms in front of him and shouted in celebration, letting loose three quarters of frustration, sensing a Super Bowl title.

“We have heart,” Mahomes said. “That’s just from Day One. Coach pushes us to be the best people that we can be, and we never give up.”

After Kansas City stopped Jimmy Garoppolo and the 49ers on fourth down, Williams ran up the middle for 4 yards. Then he sealed the win by zipping 38 yards into the end zone for a 31-20 lead with 1:12 left.

It was reminiscent of the divisional round when Kansas City fell behind early against Houston before Mahomes led the Chiefs back from a 24-point deficit to pull off the greatest comeback in franchise history.

They weren’t in nearly as big a hole in this one, but the 49ers were making it tough all night for Mahomes to get in a rhythm.

“They’re one of the best defenses that I’ve been up against in my career so far,” he said. “We weren’t executing at a high enough level and when you play a defense like that, you’re not going to have success.”

only father-son Super Bowl champion coaches.

The Chiefs added a late TD and then Garoppolo’s desperation interception ended any comeback chance for the 49ers.

“Pretty brutal,” Kittle said. “It’s not anything you can wrap your head around. I wish I had another half to play. We didn’t take advantage of our opportunities.”

Mahomes was intercepted by Fred Warner in the third quarter, and was picked off by Tarvarius Moore to short-circuit Kansas City’s next drive. It marked the first time Mahomes threw multiple interceptions in a game since Week 11 of the 2018 season against the Los Angeles Rams, when he tossed three in a 54-51 loss.

But Mahomes led Kansas City to its third straight comeback from a double-digit deficit in this year’s postseason.

“He kept firing, that’s what he did,” Reid said. “And the guys around him just believed in him. ... Nobody lost their poise. They just kept rolling.”

Mahomes finished 26 of 42 for 286 yards and the two scores, and also had a 1-yard touchdown run against the 49ers.

“You know, Pat Mahomes, like I’ve been saying all year, man: I’ll take that quarterback over any quarterback,” defensive end Frank Clark said. “There’s none like him.”

On Feb. 6, 2013, a 17-year-old Mahomes tweeted: “I bet it feels amazing to be the quarterback who says ‘I’m going to Disney World’ after winning the Super Bowl.”

Well, Mahomes is the youngest player to be named The Associated Press NFL MVP and win a Super Bowl in his career. He’s also the youngest quarterback to be selected the Super Bowl MVP.

It was exactly this type of moment the Chiefs envisioned when they drafted Mahomes with the 10th overall pick in 2017.

The confetti. The Lombardi. The joyful tears.

All with Mahomes leading the way.

“This fan base has accepted me since Day One and they’ve supported me to the maximum,” Mahomes said. “To get that trophy back to Kansas City is amazing.”

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Yesterday was an unofficial holiday for the island's rabid gridiron fans as some called in "sick" for work.

Bitten by the very virulent Super Bowl bug, hundreds headed to the preposterous number of establishments that hosted the Super Bowl LIV live between the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers.

You can say they really braved the current novel coronavirus scare gripping the world, as some ditched the now ubiquitous facemask and traded them for their favorite Chiefs and 49ers gear. One fan in particular brought a 49ers helmet and used it as a table centerpiece.

But what really stood out

during yesterday's Super Bowl parties were the venues' varying degree of darkness. It seems establishments, aware that some of the patrons called in sick for work, wanted to give them a solid by making it absolutely impossible for anyone to distinguish Tom, Dick, and Harry from the crowd.

It was also not uncommon for patrons giving photographers the stink eye after noticing that you took photos of them, afraid that they might be unintentionally "outed" to their supervisors and their sick day was actually Super Bowl day. One fan in particular went out of his way to tell a serial clicker that he "absolutely doesn't want to be a part of any photo."

As always, the phenomenon of fans of losing teams exiting early even before the

Of 'walk of shames' and pitch-dark venues

final buzzer sounded happened again yesterday, with walk of shames prevalent specially among 49ers fans who dressed to the nines in San Francisco gear.

In all, *Saipan Tribune* was only able to visit four Super Bowl parties yesterday as it focused on the biggest venues on island.

At Pacific Islands Club Saipan, F&B director Steve Balakrishna said a total of 115 football fans graced their "Monday Gridiron" event sponsored by Pacific Trading Co. at Charley's Cabaret.

For \$25, patrons wearing a smattering of Chiefs and 49ers



MARK RABAGO

The nice and cozy Super Bowl party venue at the Chambre Bar of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.



MARK RABAGO

MARPAC Beverage & Tobacco sales manager James Lee poses with the rest of his team at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom.



MARK RABAGO

Pacific Islands Club Saipan attracted 115 Kansas City Chiefs and San Francisco 49ers fans for its "Monday Gridiron" Super Bowl party yesterday at Charley's Cabaret.



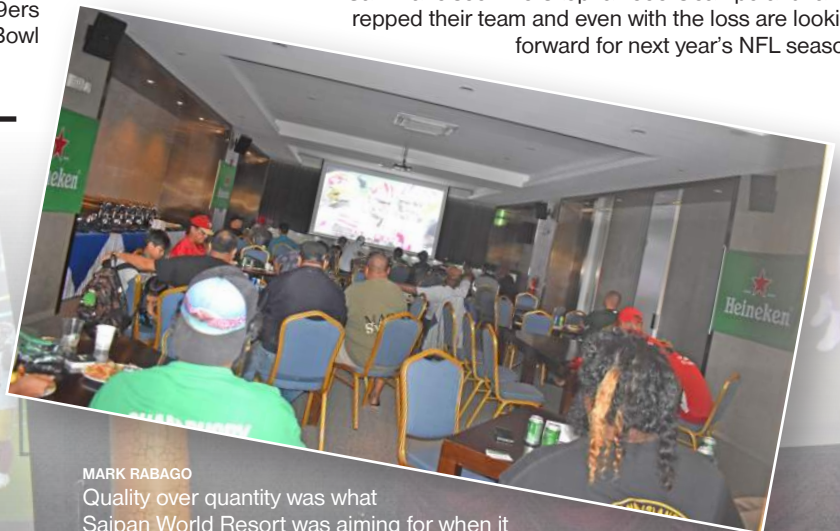
MARK RABAGO

San Francisco 49ers top fan Joe Ocampo and family repped their team and even with the loss are looking forward for next year's NFL season.



MARK RABAGO

Kansas City Chiefs fans David M. Evangelista, Yvonne C. Pangelinan, Franklin Pangelinan Santos, and Nicole Pangelinan Reyes are all smiles after watching the Chiefs beat the San Francisco 49ers, 31-20, in yesterday's Super Bowl party at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.



MARK RABAGO

Quality over quantity was what Saipan World Resort was aiming for when it hosted its "Touchdown" Super Bowl party at Sunflower Hall.



The cavernous Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom was the site of yesterday's MARPAC Super Bowl party.

MARK RABAGO



Djokovic comes back for 8th Aussie Open title, 17th Slam

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Of 'walk of shames' and pitch-dark venues

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



AP
Kansas City Chiefs quarterback and MVP Patrick Mahomes celebrates with Frank Clark and Tyrann Mathieu (32) after the NFL Super Bowl 54 football game against the San Francisco 49ers Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020, in Miami Gardens, Fla. The Kansas City Chiefs won 31-20.

By BARRY WILNER
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

M IAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—Patrick Mahomes needed just the waning minutes of Super Bowl 54 to end a whole lot of frustration.

» **Defeat 49ers with late surge**

A championship 50 years in the making for the Kansas City Chiefs.
A two-decade wait for an NFL

title for coach Andy Reid.

All it took was falling behind by double digits in the postseason, again. Then Mahomes found his mojo. The 24-year-old quarterback who was selected Super Bowl MVP, led the Chiefs to 21 straight points in the final 6:13 for a 31-20



victory Sunday over the San Francisco 49ers.

"We never lost faith," Mahomes said. "That's the biggest thing. Everybody on this team, no one had

their head down. We believed in each other. That's what we

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Shanahan must answer for another Super Bowl collapse

By JOSH DUBOW
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

M IAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—Kyle Shanahan will now have another Super Bowl collapse to answer questions about.

After being peppered all week by reporters seeking to rehash that blown 28-3 lead to New England three years ago when Shanahan was offensive coordinator in Atlanta, Shanahan's first trip to the Super Bowl as a head coach ended in another late-game meltdown.

The 49ers became the third team in Super Bowl history to give up a 10-point lead in the second half when they blew a 20-10 advantage and lost 31-20 to the Kansas City Chiefs on Sunday night.

"Those guys are hurting in

there, just like I am," Shanahan said. "We all are (hurting) right now. It's tough when you lose a Super Bowl, but I'm so unbelievably proud of those guys, what they've done all year. I've been coaching a while and it's as special a group as I've ever been around. It's tough that it had to end today in the way it did."

In two trips to the Super Bowl, Shanahan's teams have been outscored 46-0 in the fourth quarter and overtime and he can only think about what went wrong to cost him two championships.

Shanahan has now had seven drives as a play-caller in the fourth quarter of Super Bowls and his teams have four punts, two turnovers, one failed fourth down and only

six first downs.

"We just didn't get it done when we got the ball," Shanahan said. "Came up short on a just couple plays. ... We had our chance a little bit there at the end, and they made some good plays, and we just missed them."

The 49ers appeared to be firmly in control when they intercepted Patrick Mahomes for a second time with 11:57 to play and a 10-point lead.

But then the coach known as perhaps one of the league's most innovative play-callers couldn't dial up the right plays to help the 49ers seal the win.

Jimmy Garoppolo completed a 12-yard pass to George Kittle to give the Niners a first down with less than 11 minutes to play. But Raheem Mostert was stopped for 1 yard,

Garoppolo threw an incomple- tion on second down and then was forced into a short scramble on third down following a false start on Joe Staley.

That forced a punt and Mahomes led an 83-yard drive that got the Chiefs right back into the game.

"The turning point is we got a turnover and didn't execute on offense," Kittle said. "We gave the ball right back."

The Niners still had a chance to seal it with a productive drive on offense but a first down run followed by two incompletions, including one batted at the line by Chris Jones gave the Chiefs the ball back again.

See SHANAHAN on Page 26



Mahomes comes through with Super comeback in MVP performance

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

M IAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—Patrick Mahomes was struggling, and the Kansas City Chiefs were in huge trouble.

Until the young quarterback coolly brushed aside three-plus quarters of frustration and came through in the clutch, that is.

As he has already done so often in his young career.

"It's Magic Mahomes," tight end Travis Kelce said with a huge grin. "It's Showtime Mahomes. He's going to be himself no matter what the scenario. And, you know what? I love him. He willed this team back into the game."

Mahomes threw touch-down passes on consecutive fourth-quarter drives to lead Andy Reid's Chiefs to a 31-20

See MAHOMES on Page 26